

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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March 11 & 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

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Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Joan Hunsicker

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

**VISION STATEMENT:** We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- *Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.*

\* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection*

*during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS**

***(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)***

\* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C Amen.**

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy, first privately then together publicly.

*Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.*

P Holy God,

**C we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C Amen.**

\* **HYMN ELW - #777 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"**

1. **"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give. If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."**

**REFRAIN:**

***Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.***

2. “Come to me, all trav’lers weary; come that I may give you rest.  
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest.”

**REFRAIN:**

*Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell*

3. “Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.  
Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face.” **REFRAIN**
4. “Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind our guilt and shame.  
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name.” **REFRAIN**
5. “Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend.” **REFRAIN**
6. “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home.” **REFRAIN**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, B. 1939 Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

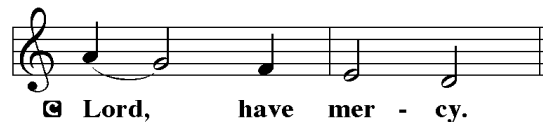
\* **GREETING**

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

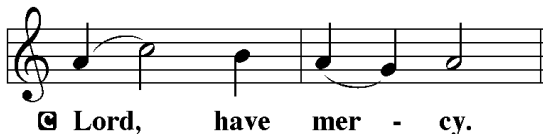
**C And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE** (*Responses Sung*)

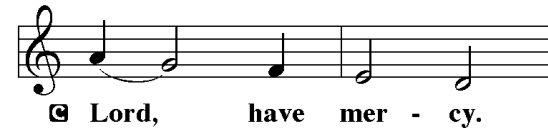
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



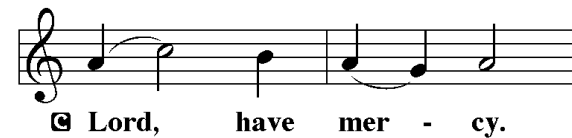
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P 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.



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



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



\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 17:1-7

A Our first reading is from Exodus, chapter 17, verses 1-7. *Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question — “Is the LORD among us or not?” — received a very positive answer.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

<sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why

do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 95

A The Psalm today is Psalm 95. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**<sup>8</sup>"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**<sup>10</sup>Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:1-11

A Our second reading is from Romans, chapter 5, verses 1-11.

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time

Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



\* **GOSPEL:** John 4:5-42

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

P The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 4, verses 5-42.

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks

of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

\* **HYMN ELW - #419 “For All the Faithful Women” (stanzas 1, 2 and 8)**  
*{sing to tune ELW - #542 “O Living Bread from Heaven”}*

1. **For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your pow'r to save.**
2. **O God, for saints and servants, those named and those unknown,  
in whom through all the ages your light of glory shone,  
we offer glad thanksgiving and fervent prayer we raise  
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.**
8. **Recall the outcast woman with whom our Lord conversed:  
Christ gave her living water to quench her deepest thirst.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearning; Christ offers us his word.  
Then may our lips be burning to witness to our Lord.**

“For All the Faithful Women” – Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., b. 1923 Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.  
“O Living Bread From Heaven” – Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876 © Music: Public Domain

## \* APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C 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.**

*(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love.  
Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine. Bring an end to war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the friends and families of Melissa Ritchie and Frances Truchard who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for Clint Barrett and Anela Carter who were united in marriage this weekend. Bless them as they begin a new life together as husband and wife. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:  
Noah Henicke; Wayne Rester; Carl Geisler; Robert Eaton; Rita Noska; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those battling cancer, all expectant mothers, those who reside in care facilities and the homebound, all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.** {See all those we pray for on pages 15 & 16.}

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**C Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.** (*Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.*)

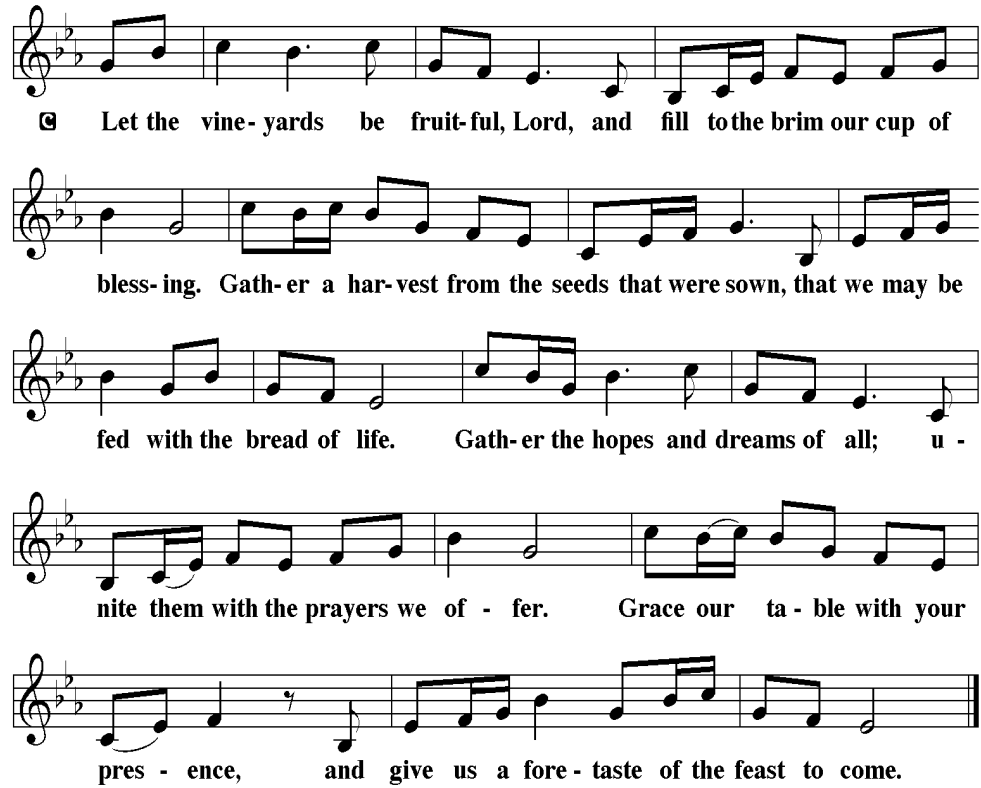
**(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)**

**60 SECONDS OF STEWARDSHIP – Evangelism Team**

**OFFERING and POWER OF ONE**

*"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.*

\* OFFERTORY (Sung)



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

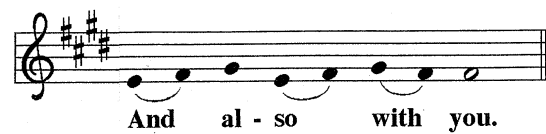
\* OFFERING PRAYER

**P** God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C** Amen.

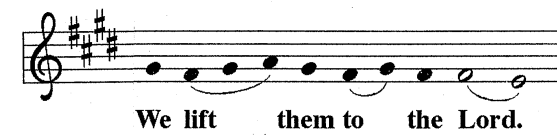
\* GREAT THANKSGIVING (Responses Sung)

**P** The Lord be with you.



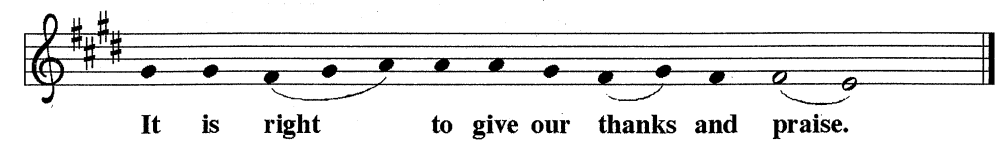
And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



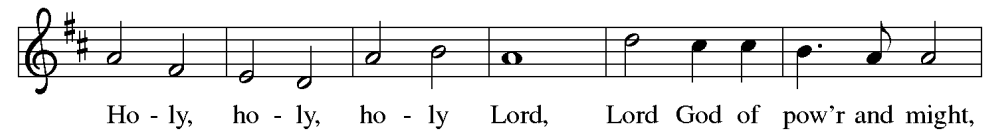
We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

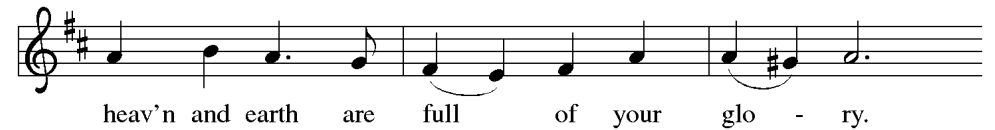


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

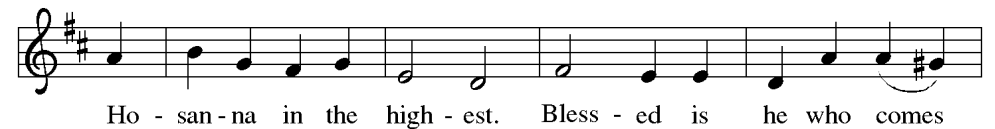
**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



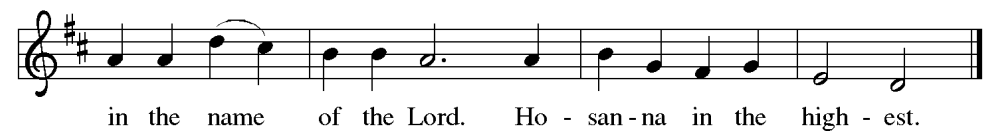
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.



\* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

\* **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

\* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come and receive from Jesus living water.

**C Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION** (Continuous with Individual Cups)

*{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}*

\* **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**C Amen.**

\* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

P God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C Amen.**

\* **HYMN ELW - #807 "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, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

CCLI Song #108389 Words: Robert Robinson Music: John Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813  
© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #1729377

\* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace and bring others to Christ.

**C Thanks be to God, and we will.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**USHERS: SAT:** The Brent Gorman Family

**SUN:** Danny Kautz; David Stancik

**LAY READERS: SAT:** Brent Gorman, Sr.

**SUN:** Curtiss Schonenberg

**ACOLYTES: SAT:** Alex Rester

**SUN:**

**STREAMING:**

**SUN:** Tiffany Lauzon

**SOUND:** Robert & Sydney Eaton

**ALTAR GUILD:** Dyana Booker and Sharon Johnson

**WELCOME:** We gather at the well of worship, where Jesus, our Living Water, quenches our thirst for love, life, hope, peace. Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Elsie Kahlden in celebration of her family's March birthdays: granddaughter Amber Smith on March 12; daughter Suzanne Conway on March 13; and daughter Beth Herchek on March 14. Flowers are also placed in memory of Elsie's father Arthur Otto for the anniversary of his birth on March 16.

We extend our Christian sympathy to George “Tiger” Bergfeld, Jr. and family for the loss of his father-in-law Frances Truchard who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

**Congratulations and best wishes** to Clint Barrett and Anela Carter who were united in Holy Matrimony Saturday, March 11, 2023. May God bless them as they begin a new life together as husband and wife!

**COLLECTION OF OFFERING:** Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes “Power of One” dollars.

**Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses:** \$8,405.00

**Attendance:** March 4 & 5, 2023 – 185                      **Contributions:** March 4 & 5 – \$9,418.56  
**Power of One:** March 4 & 5, 2023 – \$50.00                      **Building Fund:** March 4 & 5 – \$563.23

**Attendance:** Wed., March 8, 2023 – 51                      **Contributions:** Wed., March 8 – \$1,665.00  
**Power of One:** Wed., March 8, 2023 – \$9.00                      **Building Fund:** Wed., March 8 – \$125.00

*Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.*

**Wednesday Night Attendance:** – Wed., March 8 – **81 Total**

**BLAST/Confirmation:** 60      **Adult Bible Study:** 2                      **Support Staff:** 19

**ATTENTION:** *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

**KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS: Those Battling Cancer:** Carl Norton; Barbara Farley; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Mack Machacek; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; Brenda Baker.

**Expectant Mothers:** Magen Schindler Altieri; Katie Pagel Walcik; Kelsey Kethan McNeely; Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza.

**Those in Care Facilities and Homebound:** Helen Hammack; Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Bobby Zajicek; Adrian Fritsch; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher. **Homebound:** Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmner; Donna Dehmer; Carolyn Renz.

**Those Law Enforcement Officers:** Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abbigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. **Fire Fighters, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and 9-1-1 Dispatchers:** Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette. **Active Duty Military Personnel:** Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; Kevin Gonzalez.

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

**Attendance Pads Reminders:** Thank you to everyone for doing such a good job signing the attendance pads each week when you attend worship! Our records are more accurate when you sign the attendance pads. Here are a couple of things that will help get our records even more accurate and up-to-date: **1) When signing in, please write everyone in your family who is attending worship.** When you write “John Doe Family”, we do not know how many people that is and we don't know who exactly attended worship. Was it John, Sue and Sally Doe, or the whole family of John, Sue, Jim, Tom and Sally Doe? **2) Please include your address and phone number.** This is helpful especially when we have guests signing in. When they see the members writing addresses and phone numbers, guests are more likely to do the same. We like to welcome our guests by sending them a card after their visit. That is hard to do when we do not have contact information. It is also a way for us to keep up with our members when they have a change of address or phone number. Thank you for taking the time to do these items. Our staff and volunteers who take care of the personal records and oversee attendance records greatly appreciate your help.



**Peru Team Drive-Thru Fundraiser!!** Our Peru Mission Trip Team is having a drive-thru dinner fundraiser on **Tuesday, March 21, 2023** at The Lighthouse from **5:00-7:00 PM**. The menu will be: Chicken Fried Steak; Twice Baked Potatoes; Broccoli Salad; Grilled Vegetables (green beans, carrots, yellow & zucchini squash); Dinner Roll; and Pineapple Upside Down Cake. Tickets are \$13 each and are **pre-sale only**. They are available from any Peru Team member or at the church office. **Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, March 15, 2023.**

**Sr. Explorers are Reaching Out:** On **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**, we will adventure to Reach Unlimited in Cypress, Texas. Reach Unlimited is for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their mission is to provide a home where these individuals can live a life full of joy, purpose and accomplishment in a safe and caring environment. Founded in 1983, they give tours one day per month. We will dine for a lite lunch at the facility with some of the residents. We will have some time for their gift shop. We may stop on the way home for a second course or dessert. That extra food stop would be your only expense. We will depart the church at 10:30 AM and should return around 3:30 PM. **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, March 19, 2023.** Please call Kevin Page with any questions at 979-732-0845.

• **Habitat for Humanity Homeowner Application Workshop** – The next Habitat for Humanity Homeowner Application Workshop will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM and again on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM**. Both of these meetings will be held at First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 419 Washington St., Columbus, Texas. ***Attendance needed at ONE session to receive an application for a Habitat home.*** If you have any questions, please contact Colorado County Habitat for Humanity at 979-732-5677 or at chfh96@gmail.com.

♣ **Explore Retreat at Lutherhill!!** Whether your **1st-6th grader** is anxious to get back to Lutherhill, wants to do a trial run before summer, or you simply want them to adventure outside of their regular weekend routine, the Explore Retreat is the PERFECT opportunity! **March 24-26, 2023** seasoned and new campers alike will explore all that camp has to offer. Register at [www.lutherhill.org/explore](http://www.lutherhill.org/explore). **Cost is \$95 per camper.** Andy & Danielle Jones will serve as chaperones for this event and will drive the bus to Lutherhill on Friday, March 24. Once you have registered your child online, please contact Stephanie to let her know. Also, please contact Stephanie if you have any questions.



**Calling all actors, actresses and play production folks!** It is time, once again, to sign up for the Good Friday drama. The drama will be performed **Good Friday, April 7, 2023** at the **7:00 PM** service. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer). We need actors and actresses (22 cast parts) as well as people to help with lighting, set design/props, costumes and set construction. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alan.

♪♪♪ If you have a child ages 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – high school interested in being part of the **Children's Choir for Easter Sunday** April 9, 2023 **at the 9:00 AM service**, please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer). Practice will be held after BLAST from 6:30-7:00 PM. If you have any questions about the choir, please contact Robert Eaton at 281-881-4497. ♪♪♪

♦ **Lutherhill Serve Day:** The annual Lutherhill Serve Day will be **Saturday, April 22, 2023** from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. Time will be spent clearing brush and limbs around the camp. Lunch will be served. Interested in helping? Sign the **sign-up** sheet in the narthex **by Friday, April 21, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.



**SUMMER CRAFTING CAMP:** This summer we will be having a Summer Crafting Camp the first week of June. **We are in need of the following items:** 1) *Cardboard tubes from paper towels;* 2) *Crayons* – broken pieces are great! (no matter the size). Items may be dropped off in the church office between now and the end of May. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Eaton at 512-757-2251. Thank you!



**Habitat for Humanity:** The Outreach Team is in search of a Team Leader to represent St. Paul Lutheran Church for Habitat for Humanity. The churches in our community coordinate and build a couple of houses a year for our neighbors in need. ***We need someone to represent St. Paul and be the liaison between Habitat for Humanity and our congregation.*** You do not have to build the house yourself, but help coordinate our efforts. Please let Kevin Page know (979-732-0845) if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you, and thank you, God, for our most generous church family!

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library**. For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Mon., March 13 –</b>	10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 5:45 PM – Stewardship Team (library) 6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
<b>Tues., March 14 –</b>	9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse) 10:30 AM – Pastor to TLC 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
<b>Wed., March 15 –</b>	<b><i>Deadline to purchase Peru dinner tickets!!</i></b> 9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library) 1:00 PM – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Quarterly Meeting/Craft Day 4:30 PM – Lenten Worship 5:00-6:30 PM – Soup & Sandwich Meal

**Thurs., March 16 –** 5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (library)  
**Fri., March 17 –** 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)  
**Sat., March 18 –** 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship  
**Next Sun., March 19 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School and Confirmation  
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

### UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

#### **Sunday, March 12, 2023 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604**

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

#### **Friday, March 17, 2023 Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

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### SERVICE OVERVIEW: OUR “OTHER” AT THE WELL

The woman at the well is a familiar text for many people. This image of Jesus standing at a well talking with a Samaritan woman is emblazoned in our visual and theological imaginations, but as with all Bible stories that we *think* we know, we might do well to take another look! Perhaps relegating this text to the simple moralism “be nice to people who are different” causes us to miss how deeply radical and difficult the message really is. We may assume this gospel simply urges us to stand with the marginalized, especially women. Yet while standing with marginalized women is a commendable action it can lead us, after doing so, to congratulate ourselves for being just like Jesus. A more critical and searching look at this text calls us to the reality that Jesus doesn’t just stand with the other, Jesus stands with *your* other. Jesus stands with *your church’s* other. Your church’s “Samaritans” may be homosexuals, evangelicals, urban people, rural people, conservatives, liberals, the poor, the rich, the dying, or single parents. Your church’s Samaritans could very well be the key to this text. Because, like it or not, when we draw lines between ourselves and other people, Jesus is always on the *other* side of that line. So communities and individuals who thirst for the living water would do well to look to who our own Samaritans might be. And when we find them we should perhaps not be surprised to also find Jesus; a Jesus we thought was all our own but who, in reality, is the living water who comes to us in the strange and the stranger.

### THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

During Lent we accompany Jesus to his cross and resurrection. Today we stop at a well to receive a drink of water. The water turns out to be Christ himself. Welcome to worship! Pray. Meditate on all the ways Christ breaks through our human-made barriers in order to share the

promises of God. Acknowledge your “other,” then join all of the thirsty people made alive in Christ.

Last week we heard the story of Nicodemus, who was a highly regarded religious scholar who thirsted for Jesus’ explanation of who he was. The woman at the well is the exact opposite of Nicodemus in almost every way: sex, status, wealth, public regard, work. The same way Jesus meets all people exactly where they are, inviting them to experience the living water that sustains and nourishes believers as they continue to embody the spirit and the truth. How might we as the church meet people where they are, regardless of social standing, status, or power? There are thirsty people in desperate need of that message.

Jesus says, “*the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.*” Who are “the true worshipers”? Jesus bridges the divide not only between Jews and Samaritans, but by talking with the woman he is also making it clear that God is for “the whole world.” True worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth, meaning they will not seek God on either the mountain or in the temple. Rather, the Savior is present in the flesh, in the here and now! What invisible walls do we put up around ourselves as we attempt to feel safe from others?

The interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman gives testimony to Christ outside of orthodox Judaism, at the site of the historically important well of Jacob. Jesus is himself both thirsty and the source of living water, thus both human and divine. Jesus promised to give living water to all who ask and, at the conclusion of the dialogue, claimed for himself the divine name I am. The exchange resulted in these outsiders accepting Jesus as the Savior of the world.

### KID STUDY:

Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee. On the way, he had to pass through the country of Samaria. When he arrived at Jacob’s well near the town of Sychar, he was hot and tired. A Samaritan woman came to the well to get some water. Jesus went to her and asked, “Will you give me a drink?” She was surprised Jesus even spoke to her, because Jews did not like people from Samaria and would have nothing to do with them. Jesus replied, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is asking you for a drink, you would have asked me, and I would give you living water.” You see, Jesus wasn’t concerned about whether she was a Jew or a Samaritan. He only cared that she knew that he could give her what she needed - eternal life. There is still a lot of people who separate themselves from other people who are different from them. If we follow Jesus’ example, we should treat everyone with love and care.

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

*John’s gospel says the Samaritan woman was invited to take all the water she needed. The early centuries of the church, and now we again, have seen in the Samaritan woman an image of us all. We all search in the wrong place for refreshment, lugging home water which gives out or goes bad; we continuously need more water; we are always somewhat thirsty, dirty or raw. We thought to find water there, down at the stream, and were surprised to find it here, directly before us. Turning around (the word is conversion) we find a water source we had not even*

*imagined. Baptism, says the church, is this water source, this fountain of God, this conversation with Christ, this gift of self-knowledge, this sense of mission, this true religious rite, this conversion of life. - Gail Ramshaw [Gail Ramshaw, Words Around the Font (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994), 56.]*

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**Next Week's Theme (March 18 & 19):** The blind see

**Next Week's Scriptures (March 18 & 19):**

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*"David is chosen and anointed."*

**Psalm:** Psalm 23

*"You anoint my head with oil." (Ps. 23:5)*

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14

*"Awake from sleep, live as children of light."*

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

*"Baptismal image: the man born blind."*