

St. Paul Lutheran Smithville



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of
God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: "By Grace We Have Been Saved"**



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
 2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
 3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
 4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
 5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
 plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
 Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
 God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
 va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
 filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
 died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
 rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
 feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
 Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS. North American traditional

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****Greeting & Call to Worship:***

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.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

****Prayer of the Day:***

A: Let us pray. God of compassion,
you welcome the rebellious and you embrace us all with your
mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace,
and feed us at the table of 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.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32

R: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**C: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

R: While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

R: Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**C: Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

R: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**C: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

R: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**C: Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

R: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

R: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of Luke the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ¹¹ “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day: # 588 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty,
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

The Apostle's Creed

A: Together, let us confess our shared 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 (*universal*) church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church,
the world, and all those in need.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: God of promise, make your church a new creation in Christ.
Make us more like you each day. Make us to love what you
love, hate what you hate, and show mercy and kindness like
you do, so that your church may bear witness to your love.
God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may support life. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. We pray especially for: Bob, Annette, Dave, Lorinda, Pat, Rochelle, Ron, and Karen. We also pray for the St. Paul families of the week: Alvin, Lisa, Dempsey, and Pam. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers and the ones left unsaid, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering: Thank you to everyone who shares in the work of God. You may place your offering in the plates as they pass. You may also sign up for automatic giving or make an offering by clicking the donate button on our website: www.stplcsmithville.org

Offertory:

“The Gift of Love”

Choir

*American Folk Tune arr. Hal H. Hopson
Copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60187*

**Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: You give us too many blessings to count.

Prepare our hearts to receive your greatest gift to us:

Jesus our Savior.

Inspire us to share our blessings with others.

Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving:*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is right. It is our duty and our joy,
that we should always and everywhere
praise you and give you thanks because you are a faithful
and forgiving God.

In this season of Lent, draw us closer to you.

Feed us with the holy that we might reflect your Kingdom mercy.

We come to the table with grateful hearts joining all who
praise you in heaven:

**C: Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven 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.

**Words of Institution*

**The 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: Our Savior is alive in this place.

Join Him at the table of love.

C: Amen.

Holy Communion

(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal.)

Communion Hymn: "Come to the Table"



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music: Juniper Landing Music. admin. Word Music: and Word Music.

Communion Hymn: “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

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.

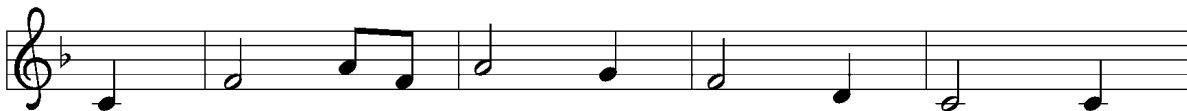
The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 7/8 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff begins with a 7/8 time signature. The second staff ends with a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a 7/8 time signature. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

****Post Communion Blessing***

****Benediction***

**Sending Hymn: # 779 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**Dismissal (with enthusiasm)*

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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Your Prayers Are Requested For:

***The families of Carol, and Harold; and for Dave, Lorinda, Bob, Annette,
Karen Fisher, Rochelle, and Ron***

St. Paul Families of the week:

Alvin & Lisa Rehm, and Rochelle Renninger, and Ron Renninger

Thank you to those serving this morning

Pastor: Rev. Kristy Buyok

Cantor: Lesley Mast

Assisting Minister: Lynn Moomaw

Lector: Lynn Moomaw

Pianist: Joe Hennell

Communion Assistant: Lynn Moomaw

Altar Care: Jerry & Kathy Meitzler

Ushers/Greeters: Bob Race & Pat Badger

Bread Baker: Lesley Mast



Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:

www.stplcsmithville.org/services

If you are unable to access via the internet,
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.

Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.

stplcsmithville.org

This Week

Sunday:	Sanctuary Worship	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.
	<u>Progressive Dinner</u>	
	Soup at Augsburg - Orrville	12:00 p.m.
	Sandwiches at St. Paul	1:00 p.m.
	Desserts at Salem – Wooster	2:00 p.m.
Monday:	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday:	Quilting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	Wednesday Meal	5:30 p.m.
	Bible Study	5:45 p.m.
	Choir	6:15 p.m.
	Bell Choir	7:00 p.m.
Next Sunday:	Sanctuary Worship	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.
	RightNow Media Tutorial	12:00 p.m.
	Bible Journaling	6:00 p.m.

Upcoming & Announcements

Vesper Circle: All St. Paul women - all ages! Vesper Circle is beginning again in April (we take off January, February, and March) We meet the second Monday of the month (1st one being April 14) at 6:00 p.m. Join us for Bible Study (using the Gather magazine), sign cards for shut-ins and have refreshments and good fellowship. Hope to see you!

Today!

Lutheran Progressive Dinner



Get to know fellow Lutherans from
Augsburg-Orrville and Salem- Wooster
Soup-Augsburg Orrville @ Noon
Sandwiches- St Paul @ 1pm
Desserts Salem @ 2pm

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with Josh & Kailyn Brown. We give thanks and praise for Kinley's coming arrival and for each of you.

PK & Ernie

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Wednesday Night Meals

Soup and sandwiches during Lent – March 5 to April 2

April 9 – Pizza

April 16 – Chef’s Choice

April 23 – NO MEAL

April 30 – Kitchen Committee Casseroles

Serving in April In-Person	4/6	4/13 Palm Sunday	4/17 Maundy Thursday	4/18 Good Friday	4/20 Easter	4/27
Lay Reader	Mark Miller	Pam Root	Lyn Miller	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen	Brad Kolby
Assisting Minister	Pam Root	Aleena Mast	Lynn Moomaw	Pam Root	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen
Greeters/ Ushers	Bruce Blough David Svegel	Hans Kwee Nancy Percy	Steve & Nancy Carr	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler	Bob Race & Pat Badger	Jason Mast Alvin Rehm
Communion Assistant	Lyn Miller	Aleena Mast	Lynn Moomaw	N/A	Duane Eggeman	Tim Preston
Altar Care	Duane Eggeman	Larry & Sandy Allen	Duane Eggeman	Lyn Miller	Steve & Nancy Carr	Rex & Beth Raff
Bread Baker	Lesley Miler	Lesley Miller	Extra	N?A	Lesley Miller	Lesley Miller

*Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor; 803-673-1727
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