



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

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# *Order of Worship*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 17, 2024 ☩ 9:00 a.m.

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## **Prelude**

## **Welcome, Announcements & Prayer Concerns**

## **Gathering Song**

*"Here I Am To Worship"*

<sup>1</sup> Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.  
Opened my eyes let me see. Beauty that made this heart adore You.  
Hope of a life spent with You

### *Chorus*

So here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely. Altogether worthy.  
Altogether wonderful to me.

<sup>2</sup> King of all days, Oh so highly exalted.  
Glorious in heaven above. Humbly You came to the earth You created.  
All for love's sake became poor.

### *Bridge*

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.  
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

## **Call to Worship**

Pastor: Once upon a tree, a good man died,

**All: And though He did no crime, He was crucified.**

Pastor: If the story ended there, we would have no song to share,

**All: But our hearts will ever sing the story.**

Pastor: Once upon a tree, so the story goes,

**All: And all its mystery, surely no one knows.**

Pastor: Could the Father's will be done through the suffering of His Son?

**All: And therein comes the answer, "Once upon a tree."**

## Greeting, Confession & Kyrie

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you!**

Pastor: Hear the words of the prophet Joel (Joel 1:12): “The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree - all the trees of the field - are dried up. Surely the people’s joy is withered away.” Let us call to mind our sin against God, our neighbor and God’s creation, and pray ... Creator God, you planted a world of beauty and variety, filled with trees for food and shade. We have turned forests into deserts, and many living trees into disposable consumer products. We confess our selfishness in misusing your handiwork to resource our greed. **All: Lord have mercy.**

Pastor: Redeemer Lord, whose hands worked with wood and whose body was broken upon the tree of Calvary, we confess that it was our sin that took you to the cross. We have sought to become wise in our own eyes, and thus eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We repent and return to you, to receive from the tree of life. **All: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Spirit of God, you make all things new, causing seeds to grow, buds to blossom, fruit to ripen. Sow within us the seeds of repentance and humility, to live gently within the community of creation, and to bring forth the fruit of your Kingdom of justice and peace. **All: Lord have mercy.**

Pastor: May the Lord cleanse you from all your sins and call you anew to follow his purpose in the garden of creation, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

## First Reading

### Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **Second Reading**

### **Philippians 2:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **Lenten Gospel Acclamation**

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## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 19:25-34**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>25</sup> Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" <sup>32</sup> For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Children's Sermon**

## **Sermon**

## Lenten Hymn of the Day

## “Once Upon A Tree”

<sup>1</sup>Once upon a tree, a good man died, And though He did no crime, He was crucified.  
If the story ended there, I would have no song to share, But my heart will ever sing the story.

<sup>2</sup>Once upon a tree, so the story goes, And all its mystery surely no one knows.  
Could the Father's will be done through the suffering of His Son?  
And there comes the answer, “Once upon a tree.”

### *Bridge*

For God so loved the world, He gave His priceless pearl.  
What greater love could there be?  
He died, He rose again, still the story doesn't end,  
For His spirit is living in me.

<sup>3</sup>What tale of human love could there ever be told?  
What song could compare with the one I hold?  
Through everything I am and through everything I'll be,  
Let me sing my story: “Once upon a tree.” Once upon a tree.

## Lenten Creed

**You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God. You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved Your love for us in Jesus Christ, Who lived and died and rose again. You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship You. Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

## Offering

## Offering Music

## Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray ... God of our life and our resources, we bring these gifts with thankful hearts for all you have done for us. Bless these gifts and the intent for which they are offered. We pray that they would help to create community, justice, hope, and healing for creation. In Jesus' name. **All: Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Lord, in your mercy ... **All: Hear our prayer.**

## Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

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## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Communion Distribution

*A member of our prayer team will be available during communion distribution for individual and private prayer. Please meet them at the prayer station in the back of the sanctuary.*

## Communion Music

"Just A Closer Walk with Thee"

(hymn) 697

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(hymn) 661

## Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

Leader: Let us pray ... At this table of God's we find fulfillment of all we desire. In the body and blood we experience the forgiveness of a dying Savior whose resurrection belongs to us. We are not left alone with the sin that separates us. We are accompanied by God and one another, throughout this Lenten journey of life.

**All: Amen.**

## Benediction

Pastor: May the word of God take root in your heart, grow strongly in your life, and bear much fruit for God's Kingdom; And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and with all God's creation, now and evermore.

**All: Amen.**

<sup>1</sup> There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

<sup>2</sup> Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

<sup>3</sup> Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it  
nor fire consumed it.

<sup>4</sup> See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."

**Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace! Share the risen Christ's love, with Joy!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**



# Welcome to **St. Paul Lutheran!**

[www.sharingchristslve.org](http://www.sharingchristslve.org)

**Thank you for worshiping with us at St. Paul Lutheran today,  
where it is our mission “To Share Christ’s Love, With Joy!”**

We hope your experience with us is meaningful and spiritual. If visiting, please don’t hesitate to introduce yourself to the pastors and others. We enjoy getting to know you and we hope you return. At St. Paul Lutheran all are truly welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion. A gluten free option is available (if needed, let the pastor know when you come forward). Gender-neutral restrooms are available in our education/preschool wing.

## **Thank You to All Involved in Worship Leading!**

<b>Pastors:</b>	Dale & Carrie Stiles
<b>Worship Assistant:</b>	Kathie Marabella
<b>Usher:</b>	Marc Marabella
<b>Prayer Corner:</b>	Dee Wilkinson
<b>Organist :</b>	Jeanne Richards
<b>Tech Team:</b>	Chris Timmons
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jean Reed
<b>Counters:</b>	Kathie Marabella, Will & Katie Fetterly

### **Please keep in your prayers this week:**

Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Pat Crawford, Ruth Koehly, The Tilly Family, Freddie (grandson of a friend of Deb Cowing), Trisha Thompson.

**Flowers** today are provided by Tyler & Joanna Kroschel in honor of Nova’s 16th Birthday. The flower sign up form is on the wall in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!



**Refreshments**—The sign up form in on the table in narthex. Thank you for signing up!

**Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesdays.** Join us for soup at 5:30 p.m. and stay for Holden Evening Vespers at 6:30 p.m. Soup this week will be provided by The Fashner's. Thank you!

**All are invited to join together on Friday, April 5, as we visit Temple Israel in Minneapolis.**

Temple Israel is the largest and oldest Jewish temple in Minnesota. They welcome groups from other faiths to come and visit and learn about the Jewish faith. The schedule for the night is as follows: 5:00 p.m. Tour and presentation, 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Shabbat Worship (Friday night worship at the start of sabbath) You can sign up to attend and to car pool (if needed) on the table in the narthex at church. The carpooling will leave church at 4:15 p.m. Want to learn more before we go? The afternoon Bible study and The Table learning time for confirmation and adults on Wednesday, April 3 will be conversations about Judaism.



**Summer Camp at Camp WAPO! St. Paul Lutheran is taking kids to Bible Camp this summer!**

It will be at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI. Our children and youth are encouraged to invite a friend to join them! Here are our options: SEEDS Camp - June 14-16 - This is a week-end camp for grades 1-4. Youth Camp - July 7-12 - This is a Sunday—Friday camp for grades 5-9. A generous member of our congregation has offered \$100 campership to each camper that signs up to attend. If others are interested in financially supporting our campers, talk to Pastor Dale or Carrie.

**Our Next New Member Reception will be on Sunday, April 7.** If you, your family, or someone you might know, would be interested in officially joining our St. Paul Lutheran Community of Faith, please contact either of the pastors. A new member orientation meeting will be offered prior to April 7. Spread the word!

**Scouts Pancake Breakfast**—Join us after worship TODAY for a pancake breakfast hosted by the scouts. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, orange juice and coffee.

**Mobile Food Shelf Gift Cards!** We are now inviting you to give financial gifts towards Easter gift cards that will be distributed among our monthly Mobile Food Shelf users. Please note on your gift: *Mobile Food Shelf Donation*

**Humble Bees Quilt Raffle!** This year, in addition to a quilt made by the Humble Bees, Dee Wilkinson has donated a fleece blanket she made, to be raffled. Tickets are \$5.00 for one or \$10.00 for three. All proceeds will go towards our Bridge The Gap Appeal. You do not have to be present to win. Drawing will be after worship on Sunday, April 7.



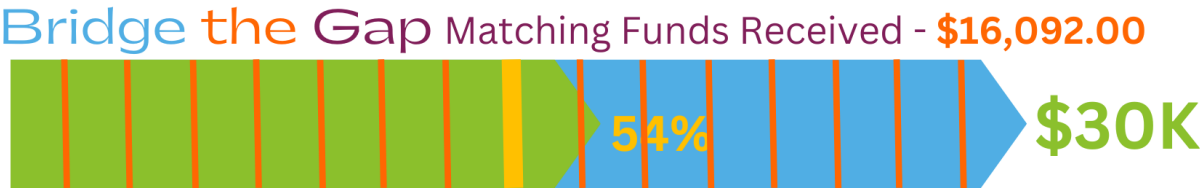
**Lakes Area Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Packing Event!** Once again this year, we are in need of 40 members and friends to sign up to pack meals at Hosanna Lutheran in Forest Lake on **Wednesday, April 10 from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.** All ages are welcome. A suggested donation between \$10—\$100/participant is encouraged but not required. Donations should be given directly to Melissa or one of the Pastors in the Church Office. Sign up on the table in the narthex!

**St. Paul Seniors—A Monthly Ministry for those “West of 55”** kicks off on Tuesday, April 2, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. with our first potluck “Lunch and Learn.” We’ll hear from Don Hudon, a member of SPLC and an active volunteer at the Forest Lake YMCA with the Forever Well program. He will share with us chair stretches, balance activities, and movement for our wellness. All age 55+ are invited to attend!



## Weekly Financial Stewardship Update

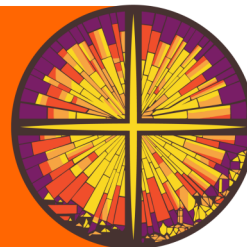
2024 General Fund Offering Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Giving
YTD Totals	\$ 44,358.35	\$ 48,236.03	\$ (3,877.68))
2024 Total Revenue Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Revenue
YTD Totals	\$ 74,577.25	\$ 60,736.05	\$ 13,841.20



*The Total Revenue Received includes ALL revenue received by SPLC (including Bridge the Gap funds). General Fund Revenue is the portion of Total Revenue Received through undesignated offerings from members and guests. Please contact Chris Timmons, with any questions.*

# This Week

@St. Paul Lutheran



## **Sunday, March 17**

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

First Communion Instruction, 10:30 a.m.

Scouts Pancake Breakfast, 10:30 a.m.

Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, March 18**

Humble Bees, 12:30 p.m.

Spiritual Direction, 6:00 p.m.

Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, March 19**

Church Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m.

## **Wednesday, March 20**

Adult Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

Lent Soup Supper & Mentor Program, 5:30 p.m.

Lent Wednesday Worship, 6:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, March 23**

Barbara Reed Funeral, 11:00 a.m.

## **Palm Sunday, March 24**

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Tanzania Planning Trip, 10:30 a.m.

Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

## **Looking Ahead**

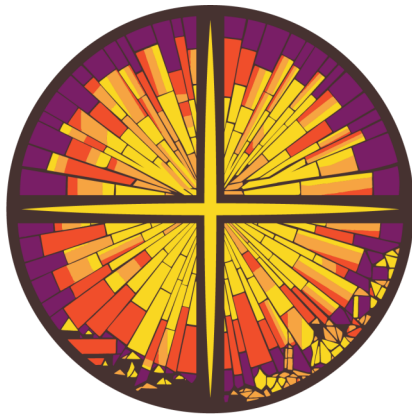
Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.

New Member Reception, April 7, 9:00 a.m.

Lakes Area FMSC Mobile Food Packing Event, April 10, 6:00 p.m.



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN —CHURCH—

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

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