St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
1st Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2019

EVERY MOMENT OF RESISTANCE TO TEMPTATION IS A VICTORY.

FREDERICK W. FABER

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Gathering

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

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God’s grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God’s love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us,
and make us new.
Amen.

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God’s promise of mercy.

God at the margins,
We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way.
We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.
We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again.
Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future,
where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear,
and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
God embraces you in tender care.
Like manna in the desert,
God feeds you with surprising mercy.
Like a loving parent,
God runs to meet you again this day,
forgiving your sins for the sake of Christ,
leading you from death into life.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN  (ELW p. 321)  Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church
GREETING

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

KYRIE

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.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God’s gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

1When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” 4When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

“Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” 4When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. 6When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. 11Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

R: God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
2 you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.” R
9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
10 no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
11 For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
12 Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. R
13 You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
14 I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.
15 They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
16 With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation. R

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

8b “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O, Lord.

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

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

5Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8Jesus answered him, "It is written,  ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’"

9Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written,  ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ 11and  ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’"

12Jesus answered him, "It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’" 13When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 325) I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
NCENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation. 

*The assembly shall kneel, as they are able*

Holy and steadfast God, keep your word near to us, planting it in our hearts and communities. Make it blossom into proclamation for all people to receive. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you give your Spirit freely, so also give bread that sustains every living thing. Graciously feed hungry souls and hungry stomachs with your bountiful provision. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stir up courage among your people to resist oppressive powers and to lead people into freedom as you did through Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today. Shine the light of your justice through their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hold tightly those who grow weary in their struggle with addiction or temptation. By your strength bear them up to live fully in your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Teach us the stories of our faith by heart. As you accompanied our ancestors in their uncertainty, so guide us confidently into the future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who grieve, and heal the sick, especially Mitch, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Lynda, Elfren, Leroy, John, Dallas, and Joyce, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul’s – Karnes City and St. Paul’s – Nordheim as the congregations share the St. Paul’s Squared opportunity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the St. Paul Area Synod, Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in Pharr, and Gettysburg College. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we struggle and are tested, redeem us by the endurance of Christ. Give us steadfast faith to strive for your glory until we witness its fullness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

*And also with you.*
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

(ELW p. 186)  Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Christ has prepared the feast.
Come to the table where all are welcomed home.
The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.
Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
➕ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW p. 808)  Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Lynda Lathrop, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, John Moczygemba, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Dallas Thompson, Yvonne Watkins, Joyce Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Birthdays: Merlene Rippstein, Dallas Thompson (Mar 14), Courtney Witte (Mar 18)

Last Sunday’s special sanctuary floral arrangement was provided by Meredean Shockome in loving memory of her beloved sister, Faye Baker.
Welcome!
We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events
*Let's join together and PARTICIPATE*

**Lent & Easter Worship Schedule**

Weekly Lenten Worship will be each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Soup & Sandwiches will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 19 – 7:30 p.m.

Easter Celebration
Christian Fellowship & Education – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – 11:00 a.m.