St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
5th Sunday in Lent
April 7, 2019
The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God’s new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

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. 618) Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

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

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

16Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 126

R: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”
3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb. R
5 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
6 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
Glory to You, O, Lord.

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary’s extravagant act of anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 596) My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

NICENE 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*

God of resurrection and new life, inspire your church to reconsider what makes us holy. When we focus on our own piety or others’ sin, show us Christ’s faithfulness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wherever destruction by flood, famine, or fire has devastated land and lives, cause green shoots to spring up, giving hope and vision for your promised future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Where nations are embroiled in chaos and unrest, cut a clear path for your people to follow. Lead us in ways of reconciliation, and foretell the new things you prepare. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor and despair. Restore them, and bring them into the joy of your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Permeate this world with the sweet perfume of Christ’s anointing. Fill your people with such gratitude that it spills over into service of those who are poor or in any need. Hear us, O God.

Provide relief for those suffering and in pain, especially Gilbert, Mitch, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Lynda, Elfren, Leroy, John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Grant wisdom to health care workers who seek to diagnose ailments, and bring healing to patients. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity, and keep us from making hasty judgments about others. 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 continue the path you have shown them through continued vision and direction, as you 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 grow their ministries through 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 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, Emanuel’s Lutheran Church in Seguin, and Lenoir Rhyne University. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany those for whom death draws near. Bring us with all your saints to receive the abundance of heavenly glory through the covenant Christ sealed in his death and resurrection. 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.**

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**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.**

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**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. 803)  When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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: Gilbert Anthony, 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, Jerry Vajdos, Yvonne Watkins, 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

Birthday and Anniversary:  Tina Walleck (Apr 9), Velmon & Peggy Buehring (Apr 13)
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, “Dwelling In the Word”**, each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Soup & Sandwiches will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**April 10: 24:24:30-31**

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 19 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Easter Celebration**

Breakfast Potluck, Egg Hunt, Fellowship & Education – 9:00 a.m.
Worship – 11:00 a.m.

If you’d like to order an Easter Lily (or several), please call Victorian Country at 780-3300 to place your order no later than Monday, April 15. You must specify that your order is for the St. Paul’s Easter service to receive the *church rate* of $15 per plant.
From the Interfaith Welcome Coalition of San Antonio via the Southwestern Texas Synod: The city has done a great job pulling together city and non-profit organizations to help immigrants as they travel through San Antonio. The city and non-profits are in it for as long as needed, and we need your help.

Help is needed to sort donations at Catholic Charities at 202 W. French Place, San Antonio (210) 222-1294 and to organize and replenish the needs at the Resource Center set up by the city close to the bus station.

Donations needed through Catholic Charities:
- children’s shoes
- socks for men, women, and children
- new underwear for men, women, and children.
- light weight car seats for those traveling by Flix bus
- clothing that is clean and in good condition, particularly more babies and young children
- donations for travel tickets for Eagle Pass families

Interfaith Welcome Coalition needs:
- volunteers
- financial donations
- backpack items, including:
  - toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, hand wipes, travel size Kleenex, hair bands or scrunchies
  - fruit snacks, trail mix, granola bars, packages of animal crackers, Cheezits or salty snacks (peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, etc.)
  - bottles of water and water bottles
  - pens, small note pads, coloring books, crayons, small blankets (4x6)
  - English-Spanish dictionaries
  - small stuffed animals

Please send the backpack donations to:
Interfaith Welcome Coalition
Jane Fried
University Presbyterian Church
300 Bushnell Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78212

Also Needed: Lunches - To - Go!
When families are welcomed at the bus station by Interfaith Welcome Coalition, they are in the midst of their long journeys to sponsors and family. Interfaith Welcome Coalition provides encouragement and hope along with a back pack full of travel items & a ‘double’ lunch to keep them nourished during the remainder of their trip.

The wonderful volunteers of Mobile Loaves and Fishes provide 200 ‘double’ lunches each week. Interfaith Welcome Coalition gives out a total of 350 - 400 lunches.

Where do the rest of those ‘double’ lunches come from? They are delivered to the bus station by volunteers who gather a group of friends to purchase the supplies, assemble the lunches and bring them to the bus station. **It is a great group-project! It is a great way to lend your support to courageous families who are seeking peace and safety.**

Get in on the action! Call, text or email Dawn Silvius to volunteer or get more information. (210) 559-6453 dawnsilvius@gmail.com