



Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent, Year A

Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Child Development Center and Pre-School

LCMC

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor
(812) 259-2530 Email: pastor@stpaultaylor.com

Glynda Vanecek, Organist
Jason Richter, Office Manager
401 West Seventh Street
Taylor, Texas 76574

Email: office@stpaultaylor.com

Office Phone: (512) 352-2327 FAX: (512) 365-1509

Office Hours: 8am-1pm Mon -Thur; Closed on Friday

Website: www.stpaultaylor.com



Online Giving Portal:



Follow us at [Facebook.com/stpaultaylor](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultaylor)

SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST

KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:00pm

St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their
Social Media and Web Page.

TWCWiFi - no password needed

St. Paul Lutheran Church

WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!

Welcome!

We welcome all who worship this Lord's Day! We are glad you are worshiping with us today. As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

(Please call the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)

Our Members:

Diane, Glenn Minzenmayer, Katy Safarik, Mark Lindell, Olin Tiemann, Kent Safarik.

Our Shut Ins:

Aileen Bunge, Cynthia Beran, David Kuempel, Gloria Bartosh, Carol Lantzsch, Inez Sladek, Grace Bulgerin, Mary Miller, Geraldine Steger, Lomis Weber, Lisa Cox, Geraldine Cox.

Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Karen Parker, Rick Mosley, Don Williams, Hazel Chasak, Bill Cody, Randel Duelm, Penny Dittman, Alan Debus, Robert Harty, Authur Moreno, Jack Dismukes, Calvin and Rosalie Jechow, Sandra Milner, Dora Brittian, Ryan Richey, Mary Perez, Rob Randig, Gayla Lantzsch, Tommy Harrison, Walter Moldenhauer.

Our Lenten Midweek Worship Services schedule: March 11, 18, 25

1:00 pm - Lent Service - St. Paul House Conf Room

6:00 pm - Soup & Sandwiches - Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm - Lent Service - Fellowship Hall

**WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS
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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Open Now thy Gates of Beauty"

P. 533 (v. 1,3,5)

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



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

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.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

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.

¹ 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. ² 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?" ³ 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?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

- ¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- ² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- ³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- ⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- ⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- ⁷ 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!
- ⁸ **"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

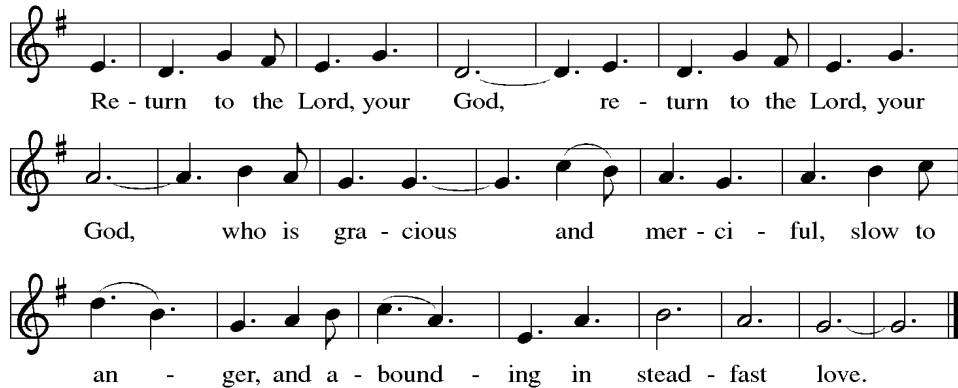
Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

- ¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²
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. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing
that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces
hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our
hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will
anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually
dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
- ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved
through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom
we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 4:5-42

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ 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.)¹⁰ 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."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ 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."¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²² You worship what you do not know; we worship

what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ 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. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ 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?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation

Children's message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

P. 335

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need and we remember our friends and family members before you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary, Kevin in Kenya, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Franklin Lutheran Church in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. We also celebrate and lift before you the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Knippa, Texas. We pray for their discernment in the call process. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE


The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

Amen

Canticle of Thanksgiving


Refrain




Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O




God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O




Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

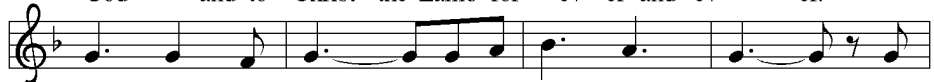
Refrain




sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.




2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and



bless - ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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

THE 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

P.658

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY			Mar 8
9:00	-	Handbell Choir Practice - Sanctuary	
10:00	-	Worship Service - Sanctuary	
11:00	-	Sunday School, Brunch, Confirmation and Adult Education	
12:00	-	Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM	
MONDAY			Mar 9
		<i>No Activities Scheduled</i>	
TUESDAY			Mar 10
6:30	-	Scouts - Fellowship Hall	
WEDNESDAY			Mar 11
8:30	-	Folding Bulletins	
1:00	-	Midweek Lent Service - St Paul House Conference Room	
2:00	-	Pastor's Bible Study	
6:00	-	Soup/Sandwiches followed by Lenten Service at 6:30 - Fellowship Hall	
THURSDAY			Mar 12
		<i>No Activities Scheduled</i>	
FRIDAY			Mar 13
		<i>No Activities Scheduled/Church Office Closed/Pastors Day Off</i>	
SATURDAY			Mar 14
		<i>No Activities Scheduled</i>	
NEXT SUNDAY			Mar 15
10:00	-	Worship with Holy Communion - Sanctuary	
11:00	-	Sunday School, Confirmation, Brunch and Adult Education	
12:00	-	Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM	

Announcement



Looking for Volunteers

St. Paul will be serving at Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry on Saturday, March 21st from 7:30 am to 10:30 am. Anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated. If anyone needs community service this is a great opportunity. The address is 121 East 2nd Street, but please enter from Porter Street. ***For any questions please contact Don Artieschoufsky (512-923-0220)***

Serving Today

Council Ushers: Terry Richter, Don Artieschoufsky
Reader: Debbie Matthys
Acolytes: Open
Altar Flowers: Open

Serving March 15

Council Ushers: Rhonda Ochoa, Loren Dittmeyer, Katy Safarik
Reader: George Matthys
Acolytes: Open
Altar Flowers: Richter



Name: _____

Phone: _____

I want to give _____ (number) of Lily plant(s) to decorate our church for Easter. The plants are **\$12 each**, and must be ordered **by Monday, March 30 at noon**. Please include payment with this order.

My Easter Lily is given in memory of:

AND/OR

My Easter Lily is given in honor of:

AND/OR

My Easter Lily is given in thankfulness to God.
(Only the person's name who is giving the plant will be listed.)

Number of lilies ordered: _____

x \$12 _____

Total enclosed _____

*You may put this form in the offering plate, give it to an usher,
or mail it to the church, 401 W. 7th St., Taylor, 76574.*