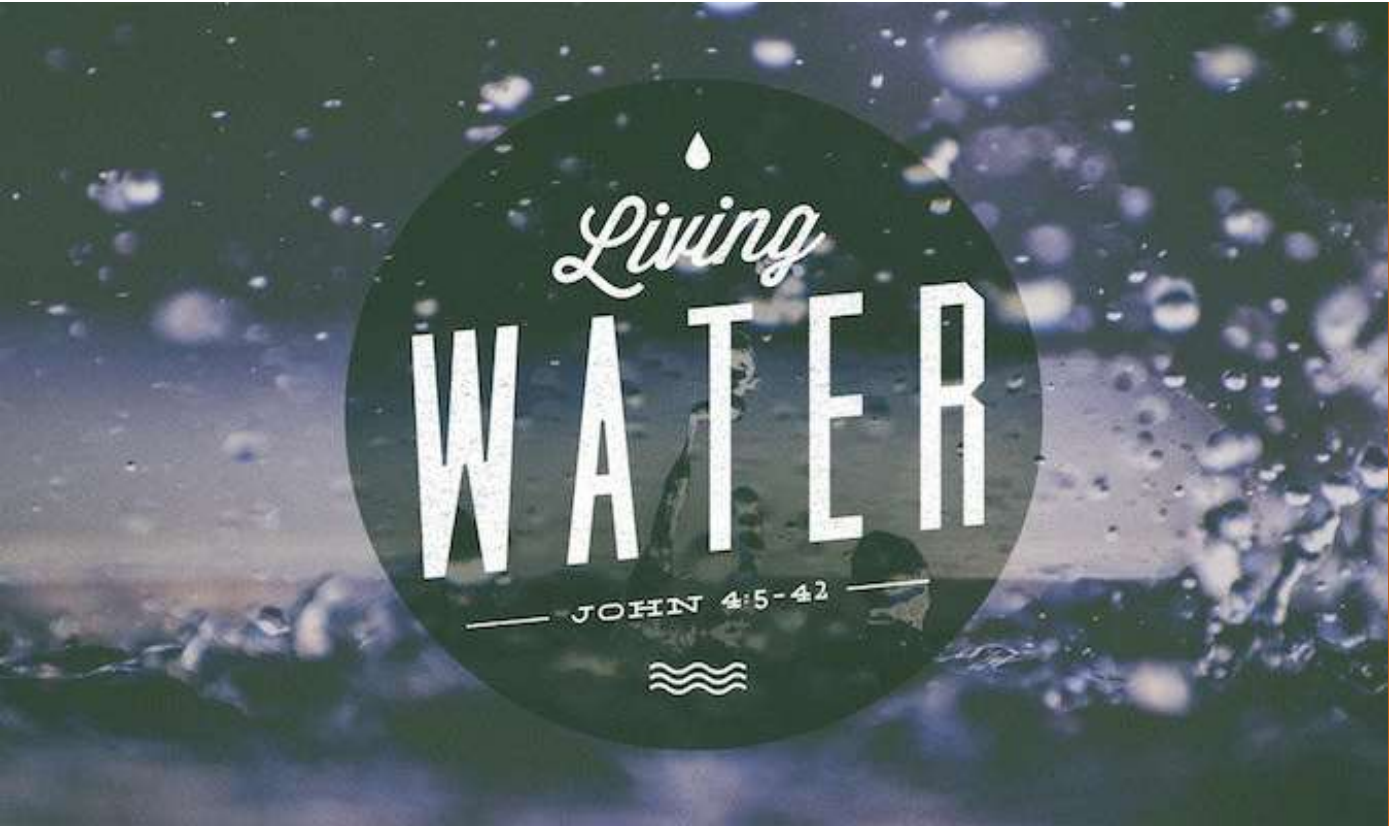




***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

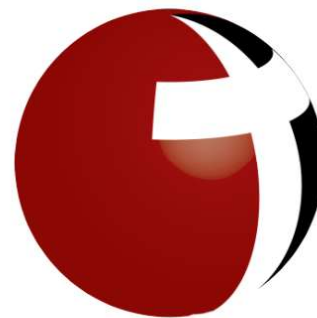
March 8, 2026



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

**Come, let us sing for joy to
the LORD; let us shout aloud
to the Rock of our salvation.**

- Psalm 95:1 -



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



thany



ate's Judgment Hall



e Mount of Olives



The City of Jerusalem



The Garden of Gethsemane



The High Priest's Courtyard

PLACES *of the* PASSION

Wednesdays, February 18 - March 25

**St. Paul
Lutheran**



**Taylor, TX
LCMC**

Join Pastor Qualley each Wednesday through March 25th at 2pm in the St. Paul House Conference room for a study of the Places of the Passion.



Monday, March 30 is the deadline for ordering Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday.

Order forms are available in the bulletin and on our website under the Announcements section.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Service



St. Paul will be serving at Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry and anyone who can help would be greatly appreciated. If anyone needs community service, this is a great opportunity.

For any questions please contact Don Artieschoufsky.
(512) 923-0220 • donartie@msn.com

When:

Saturday March 21, 2026; 7:30 am – 10:30 am

Where:

Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry at 121 E. 2nd Street, Taylor TX



St. Paul
Lutheran

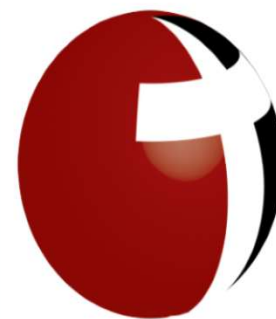


Taylor, TX
LCMC

Welcome to Scout Troop 167 and their members who are joining us today for our service.



PORTALS *of* PRAYER



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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

The new Portals of Prayer are available at
the front entrances and in the Narthex

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

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”

Hymn # 533

**1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers
prayer.**

Hymn # 533

**Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and
grace!**

Hymn # 533

**3 Here thy praise is gladly
chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves
alone,**

Hymn # 533

**so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.**

Hymn # 533

**Final Speak, O God, and I will hear
thee,**

**let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.**

Hymn # 533

**Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

Hymn # 533

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

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

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: 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

***Return to the Lord, your God,
return to the Lord, your God,
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast 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. ⁷ A 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.” ¹⁶ Jesus 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.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Hymn # 335

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's
mountain.**

Hymn # 335

[Refrain]

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall
find
rest beyond the river.**

Hymn # 335

**2 Near the cross, a trembling
soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning
star
sheds its beams around me.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 335

[Refrain]

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall
find
rest beyond the river.**

Hymn # 335

**³Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 335

[Refrain]

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall
find
rest beyond the river.**

Hymn # 335

Final Near the cross I'll watch
and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
[Refrain]

Hymn # 335

[Refrain]

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall
find
rest beyond the river.**

Hymn # 335

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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 ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and
ever.***

¹ Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Refrain **Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one whose
name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy
God!***

Refrain **Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.**

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”

Hymn # 658

**1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

Hymn # 658

**2 We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we
fill.**

Hymn # 658

**3 For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you
turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**

Hymn # 658

**Final O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and
bright!**

**Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy
light.**

Hymn # 658

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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3rd
Sunday
in

Lent

