OUR CONDEMNATION IS CRUSHED BY GOD’S GRACE

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul’s. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God’s forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY’S WORSHIP

Almighty God, I have no other Savior but you. This morning crush my pride and my self-righteous confidence so I can see that I cannot save myself. And when my sins weigh me down and I feel utterly lost, open my mind and heart once again to your message of grace in Jesus. Strengthen my trust in his work on my behalf as I worship you. In his name I pray. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children’s activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids’ Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you’re visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don’t feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.
The Service of the Word offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God’s Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

**OPENING HYMN**

*Today Your Mercy Calls Us* | 339

1 Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
2 Today your gate is open, And all who enter in shall find a Father’s welcome.
3 Today our Father calls us; His spirit waits. His blessed angels gather at the open door, What should we do without you, O whatever we have been, How ever long from mercy Our hearts have turned away, Your precious gotten, A present joy be given, A future asked us How often we have come; Although we against us, To drive us to despair, We know one blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Grace be promised: A glorious crown in heav’n. Oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home. Gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.
INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.
The Word

FIRST LESSON  
Isaiah 12:1-6

1 In that day you will say:  
   I will give thanks to you, L ORD,  
   for though you were angry with me,  
   your anger has turned away,  
   and you comfort me.

2 Surely God is my salvation.  
   I will trust him and will not be afraid,  
   because Yah, the L ORD, is my strength and song,  
   and he has become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

4 In that day you will say:  
   Give thanks to the L ORD! Proclaim his name.  
   Declare among the peoples what he has done.  
   Proclaim that his name is exalted!

5 Sing to the L ORD, for he has done amazing things!  
   Let this be known in all the earth!

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,  
   for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!
HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved | 384

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not. Why wa - ver
2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -
3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan
4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - joice. For though I

at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er
cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your
plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is
spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is
know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my
false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -
soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -
seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -
o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -
Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has

main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
hend God by his grace to you did send.
cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?
flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.
18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. 19 In fact, it is written:

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? 21 Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. 22 Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

please stand

GOSPEL


1 All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. 2 But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 He told them this parable:

11 “A certain man had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who
sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

16"When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’

20"He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. 21The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22"But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

25"His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. 27The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

29"He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I’ve been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

31"The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’"

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children’s devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children’s participation.
1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me! 
Was blind but now I see.

2 The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures. 
As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
Bright shining as the sun, 
And grace will lead me home.

4 When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Once was lost but now am found, 
Thus far, than when we’d first begun.

SERMON

God’s Folly Is Our Power

1 Corinthians 1:18-25
please stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

be seated

OFFERING

"I know, my God, that you test the heart, and you take pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things. Now with joy I see your people, who are present here to bring the offering freely to you" (1 Chronicles 29:17).
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Dear God, heavenly Father, how great is your love for us! You willingly sent your beloved Son to a world of sinful rebels. The innocent one came to serve the guilty, but his own people rejected him, and his enemies tortured him and put him to death.

C: Because you did not withhold your one and only Son but let him take our guilt on himself to set us free, we praise your holy name.

M: Dear Son of God, our brother, how great is your love for us! You allowed yourself to be condemned so that we could be declared not guilty. Fill our hearts with the same self-sacrificing love that you showed us. You allowed no suffering, no fear, and no doubt to swerve you from your path to Calvary.

C: Give us the same single-minded dedication and unshakable commitment as we daily take up our cross and follow you.

M: Dear Holy Spirit, how great is your love for us! By Word and sacrament you have warmed and transformed our foolish and stubborn hearts, making us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and receptive to his gospel of forgiveness. Hold his cross before our eyes that we may dedicate our lives to him who died for us.

C: Make us strong in the hour of temptation. Lead us to love and serve our neighbor as unselfishly as Christ did.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Keep us in the true faith in unity with all faithful Christians, and grant us a blessed death.

C: Hear us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.
LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

HYMN

Drawn to the Cross

1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
   With healing gifts for souls distressed,
   To find in you my bused, my mis-spent years;
   Of my sin remain. For cleansing through your
   sweet a service be That angels well might
   life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

2 How well you know my griefs and fears,
   Your grace a-
   wash me and take away each stain;
   Let nothing
   of my sin remain. For cleansing through your
   sweet a service be That angels well might
   life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

3 Wash me and take away each stain;
   Let nothing
   gifts for souls distressed,
   To find in you my bused, my mis-spent years;
   Of my sin remain. For cleansing through your
   sweet a service be That angels well might
   life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

4 To pledge my labor willingly,
   Which shall so
   wash me and take away each stain;
   Let nothing
   gifts for souls distressed,
   To find in you my bused, my mis-spent years;
   Of my sin remain. For cleansing through your
   sweet a service be That angels well might
   life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.
please stand

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

B: A - men.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.


be seated
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
   Our hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine.

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine.

3 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

REPENTANCE FUELING (BIBLE STUDY) CONTINUES

Sunday School and Bible Study:  *A Life Restored: Jesus has power over death.*
Midweek Bible Study (Tues. 7pm; Wed. 9am):  *The Book of Zechariah*

PRINCIPAL CALL EXTENDED

We have extended a divine to Mr. Timothy MacKain to serve as principal and grades 7-8 teacher beginning next school year. Mr. MacKain currently serves as principal and teacher at Lamb of God Lutheran School in West Allis, WI. If you would like to reach out to Mr. MacKain about St. Paul’s ministry, you can do so via phone (414-412-1536) or email (mackain@logls.org). Please keep him in your prayers as he deliberates!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek Lenten services continue each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. The theme for this year’s midweek services is The Crucial Hours. The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus’ passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us.

ST. PAUL’S SCHOOL

If you or someone you know would be interested in Christian education for their child(ren) in grades PreK through 8th grade next year, our school is currently accepting applications for enrollment. You can find information about our school and an online application form on our website. Please also contact Pastor Groth to set up a tour.

ST. PAUL’S APPAREL

If you ordered some St. Paul’s gear from Games People Play and designated your order for pickup at St. Paul’s, your gear has arrived and can be found either in the lobby or in the church basement. If you designated your order to ship directly to your home, you should receive your order soon if it hasn’t been delivered already.
EASTER EGG HUNT
On April 16th, our St. Paul’s School will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our congregation and community. The event will start at 10:00 am and will include an Easter egg hunt, craft, games, and an Easter story. We hope that you’re able to support the event by either spreading the word, attending the event, or attending the bake sale. If you would like to donate your time or bakery skills to support the event, a sign up is in the church lobby. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Krista Pfaff via phone/text (608-386-2444) or email (KristaLPfaff@gmail.com). Thank you for your support.

BAKE SALE
On Sunday, April 10th, we will have a bake sale between services in the church basement. Funds raised will help support the Easter Egg Hunt being hosted by our St. Paul’s School. If you would like to donate a baked good for the event, you could bring an item on April 9th between 9-10 am to the church basement or April 10th before the first church service. If baking isn’t your expertise, feel free to indulge on the goody’s others have prepared!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
4/10 – Palm Sunday Worship (PreK-8 and Adult Choir singing)
4/14 @ 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion
4/15 @ 1:30 and 7:00 pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service
4/16 @ 10:00 am – Easter Egg Hunt @ St. Paul’s School
4/17 @ 6:30 am – Easter Worship with Communion
@ 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
@ 9:00 am – Easter Worship with Communion

BREAK YOUR FAST AT ST. PAUL’S ON EASTER
On Easter morning, we’ll be having an Easter Breakfast beginning at 7:30 am and ending at 9:00 am. Freewill donations will be accepted at the breakfast to help cover the cost of the meal. If you would like to contribute rolls, coffee cake, donuts, or other sweets, you can drop them off at the church basement on Saturday, April 16, between noon and 3:00 pm or arrange a time with the Hoths. Thank you!
**RECOVERY IN CHRIST**

Recovery in Christ meets most Wednesdays, 1:00 pm, at La Crosse’s Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St.), and Sundays, 4:00 pm at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (1201 Main St. across from Center 90), Onalaska. Recovery in Christ ministers to people in various stages of addiction. Call/text 608-567-3038 (Bill) to confirm a meeting.

**CAMP WHITEWATER**

Registration for Camp Whitewater is now open! Each year this camp is held at Whitewater State Park, near St. Charles, MN. There are 2 separate weeks of camp. The dates for camp this year are July 12-17 and July 19-24. Go to campwhitewater.org to download all the forms needed to register. The cost for camp this year remains at $160.

**OFFERING SUMMARY**  (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2022 Weekly Budget: $10,069.73       Budget to Date: $120,836.76
Received Last Week: $6,126.57          Rec’d to Date: $96,851.52

**LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE**

8:00 am: 98   10:00 am: 82   Total: 180
Live Stream Peak Live Viewers: 20
Sunday Bible Study: 34
Sunday School: 4
Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 22
Wed. Lenten Service: 85
Wed. Lenten Service Peak Live Viewers: 22
# Calendar

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<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>Public School Catechism Class</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Midweek Lenten Service</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
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<td>Ladies Aid Meeting</td>
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<td>Church Basement Remodel Committee</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
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<td>NEXT SUNDAY</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Worship with Communion</td>
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## Serving in Worship

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<tr>
<td>Presiding Minister</td>
<td>Pastor Brock Groth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accompanist</td>
<td>Harriet Langrehr</td>
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