



ALWAYS PRESENT, ALWAYS PATIENT

Third Sunday in Lent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

March 23, 2025

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

God of all creation, you are exalted high above the heavens and yet you are also present everywhere, especially with your people. This means you see my many sins and know when I don't appreciate your presence. Show me today that you are also ever patient with me in your grace. Continue to patiently work on my heart that it can produce abundant fruit thanks to your care. In my Savior 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.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Pastor Brock Groth

Accompanist

Harriet Langrehr

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

Christian Worship '93

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.

CHIMES

Lamb of God

OPENING HYMN

631 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who
light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION

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.

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

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.

Amen.

Prayer and Praise

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

(short musical intro)



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.



The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³So he said, "I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up."

⁴When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!"

Moses said, "I am here."

⁵The LORD said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He then said, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, "I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹Now indeed, the Israelites' cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹²So he said, "I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

¹³But Moses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I say to them?"

¹⁴So God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He also said, "You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

¹⁵God also told Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



HYMN

583 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite

Tune: German

Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, ²and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” ⁸And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. ⁹Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

¹²So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Peter 3:9

**He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.**

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1–9

¹At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.”

continued...

⁶He told them this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?' ⁸But the gardener replied to him, 'Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

404 *Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of
 sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new
 eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me
 is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing
 death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,
 let me then be on my guard, say - ing, "Christ for
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each
 ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -
 ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



and from sin - ning keep me ere its first be - gin - ning.
 me was wound - ed," that the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 wild temp - ta - tion, calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 ton - ing pas - sion has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 my pro - tec - tion, light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.; tr. composite
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Exodus 3:1–15

The Ever-present God Is...



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

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

406 In the Hour of Trial



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
 2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm
 3 Should your mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,
 4 When my life is end - ing, though in grief or pain,



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
 or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,
 or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,
 when my bod - y chang - es back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,
 bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne
 grant that I may nev - er fail your cross to view;
 on your truth re - ly - ing, through that mor - tal strife,



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.
 or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross - crowned Cal - va - ry.
 grant that I may ev - er cast my care on you.
 Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, to e - ter - nal life.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

923 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, feed me till I want no more.
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–1791

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Our Lenten journey continues this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We will hear once again the Passion History of our Savior on his way to the cross. Using the penitential verses of Psalm 51 as an outline, the 2025 Lenten worship series, *Reflections on Repentance*, also teaches the characteristics of repentance through nine sermons, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Most important, this powerful worship series emphasizes the overwhelmingly undeserved grace God shows to all who believe in the redemptive work of their Savior Jesus.

LIVING MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN

Our midweek study is entitled *Living My Life as a Christian*. Putting your Christian faith into practice is a lifelong pursuit that requires consistent guidance, solid biblical wisdom, and daily reminders of God's grace. Originally written as a follow-up to a Bible Information Class, this course addresses a wide variety of Christian living topics that new and seasoned believers often struggle to apply to their lives, from maintaining a regular prayer habit to managing God's gifts wisely. Our remaining lessons: My Life as I Profess My Faith, My Life as a Member of God's Church. Join us on Tuesdays/Wednesdays as we dive into our lives as Christians.

3K/4K @ ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

Our St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran School will be offering a 3K/4K program beginning this fall. If you or someone you know might be interested in applying for the program, you can find info and the online application at stpaulsbangor.com/school/3k-4k-program or at the QR code to the right.



BAKE SALE

On Sunday, April 13th, PACE will be hosting our annual bake sale between services in the church basement. Funds raised will help support the Easter Egg Hunt and various other PACE initiated events throughout the year. If you would like to donate a baked good for the event, feel free to bring an item to the church basement on Saturday, April 12th between 9:00-10:00 am or on April 13th prior to the first church service. If baking isn't your expertise, feel free to indulge in the talents of those others have prepared!

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 19th, your St. Paul's School will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children (ages 0-10) of our congregation and community. The event will start at 10:00 am and will include an egg hunt, games, an Easter story, and door prizes. We hope that our St. Paul's family will help support the event by either attending the event, spreading the word, or attending the bake sale. Thank you for your support.

MLC HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

Greetings from Martin Luther College! *The Foolishness of the Cross* is the newest digital devotion book we've created for you. It contains a devotion for each day of Holy Week, April 13-20, written by MLC faculty. The cross of Christ is the setting for the greatest reversal in history—an altar of humiliation transformed into the ultimate stage and revelation of the King of kings. These devotions will help us see how the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. You can access these devotions easily and conveniently using digital formats, beginning April 7. You can request that we send the eight devotions to your personal email on a daily basis, Palm Sunday to Easter, April 13-20. In the email, you will receive the written devotion and the link to an audio recording by the author. Or you can read them in our online flipbook. Use the link within each devotion to listen to the author's audio recording. Visit mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/.

LWMS SPRING RALLY

The LWMS Scenic Coulee Circuit spring rally will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Faith Lutheran Church, N6598 County Road A, Black River Falls, WI. Registration will begin at 12:30pm with the program starting at 1:00 pm. The guest speaker for the rally will be Lydia Schultz and the title of her presentation is: Thai Village. The business meeting will follow the guest speaker. A light luncheon will be served following the business meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

LUTHER'S BIG KNIGHT

The Big Knight is an annual fundraiser supporting Luther High School. This event is a dinner auction with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the students of Luther High. All who attend get to experience a PACKED silent auction followed by an elegant dinner and an INCREDIBLE live auction. Join us on Saturday, April 26, 2025, for the annual Big Knight dinner auction at Celebrations on the River in French Island, WI. This event not only raises funds for tuition assistance, but is a night of exceptional auction items, great food, and fellowship with others who love Luther High School. Doors will open at 5:30 pm with registration and the silent auction. Join

us in supporting the students of Luther High School. We hope to see you there! Any questions, please contact John Byus (byusjohn@luther.k12.wi.us) at the Mission Advancement Office.

THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The Christian Leadership Experience (CLE), hosted by The Antioch Foundation since 2015, is about building the next generation of leaders for the Church. From training our children to living our faith at work, from volunteering for a committee to participating musically at church, God places opportunities in front of each of us to lead in unique ways. With a broad range of keynotes and breakouts, the CLE has something for everyone, including an in-depth leadership track available on Friday. We hope you will join us for this two-day event and experience Christian fellowship and opportunities to follow, serve, and lead! The CLE is June 13-14, 2025, at the La Crosse Center. Visit christlead.com for more information and registration details.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Two foreign exchange students would like to attend Luther High School during the 2025-2026 school year. Families that are interested in learning more about serving as host families can contact Principal Punzel at punzphil@luther.k12.wi.us.

PRAYERS

This week we keep in our prayers: Barry Wehrs, Brian Berg, Gary and Christa Lemke, Clarice Koltermann, Marcie Richmond, Sylvia Horstman, Vicki Chapiewsky, and Herb Miller.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2025 Weekly Budget: \$10,913.22 Budget to Date: \$120,045.42

Received Last Week: \$6,406.37 Rec'd to Date: \$93,734.43

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 114 Online Viewers: 60 10:00 am: 80 Total: 254

Sunday Bible Study: 34 Sunday School: 17 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 18

Midweek Lent: 37 Online Viewers: 36 Total: 73

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	5:00 pm	Bible Information Class
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	5 th /6 th Grade Bible Class
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service
THURSDAY	2:00 pm	Ladies Aid Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship

WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

608-486-2754
stpaulsbangor.com

401 16th Ave. N,
Bangor, WI 54614

