

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

804.427.7500

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing.

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



As We Gather

We hear today of eternal life that is given to us because of God's great love for us, shown to us in perhaps the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16. This verse speaks of God's genuine love for us and the world shown in Jesus' death on the cross for us. The love of God never ends. God's love is present here and now and extends into eternal life as eternal love. May we be so encouraged by God's love to share it with others. Thanks be to God for such love!

Key:

- △ – Stand
- ▣ – Pastor
- ▣ – Assistant/Reader
- ▣ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Mt. 28:19b; [Mt. 18:20]

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

[Heb. 10:22], Ps. 124:8, Ps. 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v. 1

- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**
P Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
C **though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**
P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**
P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

sts. 1, 3, 5, 7



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I
 7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:
 deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy
 I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.
 groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-81; (sts. 1, 5, 7); tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (st. 3); tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

Collect of the Day

Lent 4

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray... Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

Moses lifts up the bronze serpent to save the people of Israel.

A The Old Testament Reading is from Numbers, chapter 21.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

We are saved by grace through faith.

A The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 2.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

- P** [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**
P who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

God so loved the world.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

566 By Grace I'm Saved

sts. 1-4, 6



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is
 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; In Je - sus' prom - ise



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,
 I re - joice; For though I know my heart's con - di - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our
 I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad, all



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.
 grief has flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Ephesians 2:1-10, "By Grace"

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith.
 And this is not your own doing;
 it is the gift of God,
 not a result of works,
 so that no one may boast."*

Ephesians 2:8-9

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus Christ, as we come before You with our prayers and petitions, we thank You for Your genuine love, and we pray, Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, show Your love to all those who have experienced broken families, homes, and churches. Surround them with Your love and with people who will love them as You love them. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your love to all those who have abandoned the faith. Strengthen us to lovingly invite them toward Your genuine love for the world. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, in Your earthly life You experienced the death of those You loved. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in such grief, *especially* Point them to the hope of eternal life with You. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared many good works for us to do in our earthly lives. Give us courage to do those good works with joy, expecting nothing in return, knowing we are saved by grace alone. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, *especially*... . Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C **with more fervent love for You.**

(additional petitions may be offered)

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Receiving of LWML Mites

Prayer

Offering

Voluntary



Stand

956 Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface & Proper Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

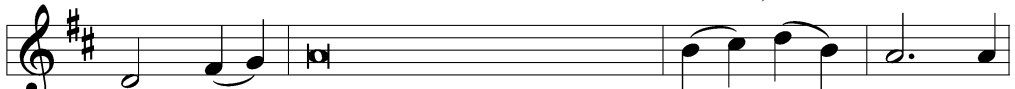
Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.


Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, Now Dismiss Your Servant



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



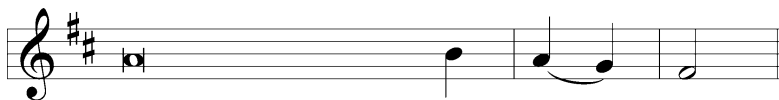
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

P Go in peace.

C Serve the Lord!

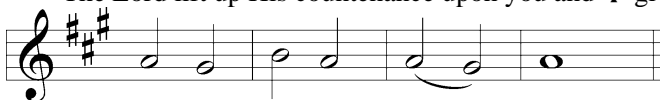
Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

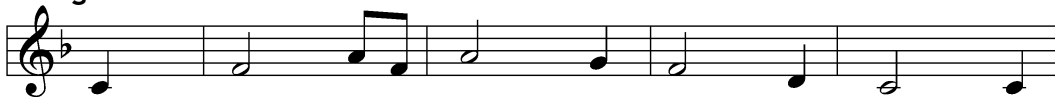
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



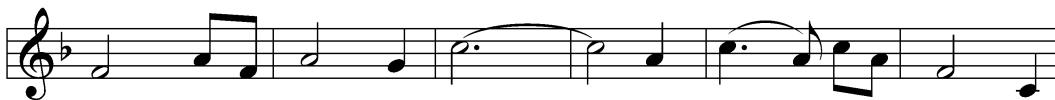
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1-5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Service, 2024-03-10, Lent 4 - DS3.docx

"...[Jesus] said, 'It is finished'
and He bowed His head
and gave up His spirit."

John 19:30b



A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.