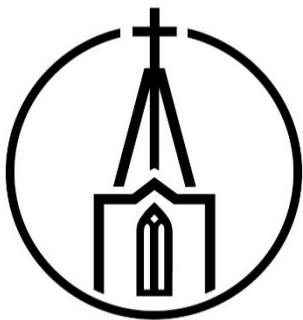


Sunday, March 22, 2020
The 4th Sunday in Lent



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

A personal prayer before worship:

Gracious Lord, may the thoughts of my heart be pure and focused on Your salvation as I give You my thanks and praise. May the words of my mouth be sincere as I sing Your praises. May the actions of my life follow Your will and commands, flowing from a heart filled with repentance and love for You and all those around me. Bless our worship service, and guard and direct me all this week as I live my life for You. Amen.

TODAY'S WORSHIP FOCUS

We're bluntly reminded that sin and death completely rule and influence the hearts and actions of anyone without Christ. But Christ Jesus has overcome sin and death, and any sinner receives that blessing through the gift of faith!

INVOCATION

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We worship our triune God for the salvation He gives us. Amen.

HYMN #282 "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



Word to me draw near. Let me your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin. Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or



tain; Let me your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

CONFESSION of SINS

P: Dear friends, let us humbly and honestly approach God to confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us.

ALL: Gracious Lord, I confess that I am naturally born to be dead in my sin. I am altogether helpless for reaching eternal life in heaven. I am guilty of faithless worrying and selfish pride, for pet-sins that I do over and over, and so many other sins I don't even realize I do. Because of the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should drive me away from Your presence forever by sending me to hell. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins and I plead for Your mercy. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION of SINS

P: Let us give all thanks and praise to our triune God! In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ through faith, even when we were dead in our sins! Hear and trust the promise of forgiveness which is ours through faith, as Jesus said to the paralyzed man and his friends in Luke chapter 5... When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

ALL: We are thankful for and trust in God's merciful promises! Dear Lord, please strengthen and guide us so that we live our lives to Your glory! Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In the security of His promises, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of Your life-giving Gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance through the trials of this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

C: Dear Lord, strengthen our faith so that we do this. Amen.

ALL SING "Glory Be To God" (melody of CW #233)

1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,

Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first two lines of the song. The second staff contains the melody for the next two lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
 For all, O Fath - er, you have done
 Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
 Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Spoken with the pastor.*

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our sinful actions, but we ask You to graciously cleanse us from all our sins. Please comfort us with the Good News of Your salvation. Bless us as we worship this morning, and strengthen our faith by the power of Your Gospel; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON Hosea 5:15-6:3

God's tremendous grace is revealed as Hosea shares this divine message with the Jews. The Lord mercifully receives those who turn to Him in repentance and faith.

Led by Pastor Rodney Rixe – Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoskins

- ¹⁵ Then I will go back to my place
 until they admit their guilt.
 And they will seek my face;
 in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”
- ^{6:1} “Come, let us return to the LORD.
 He has torn us to pieces
 but he will heal us;
 he has injured us
 but he will bind up our wounds.
- ² After two days he will revive us;
 on the third day he will restore us,
 that we may live in his presence.
- ³ Let us acknowledge the LORD;
 let us press on to acknowledge him.
 As surely as the sun rises,
 he will appear;
 he will come to us like the winter rains,

like the spring rains that water the earth.”

A HYMN #419 “If God Himself Be for Me”



1 If God him - self be for me, I may a
2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, Of this I
3 I build on this foun - da - tion: That Je - sus



host de - fy; For when I pray, be - fore
make my boast, That God is my dear Fa -
and his blood A - lone are my sal - va -



me My foes, con - found - ed, fly. If Christ,
ther, My friend who loves me most, And that,
tion, My true, e - ter - nal good. With - out



my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from
what - e'er be - tide me, My Sav - ior is
him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less



a - bove, What foe or what dis - as -
at hand Through storm - y seas to guide
on earth; The gifts I have from Je -



ter Can drive me from his love?
me And bring me safe to land.
sus A - lone have price - less worth.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-10

Christ has accomplished salvation by meeting the righteous demands of the law in our place. We now have a new spirit who is led by the Holy Spirit. The result: Christians, led by the Spirit of God, live lives of grateful devotion.

Led by Pastor Austin Ziche, Immanuel Lutheran church, Hadar

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

A HYMN #439 "Lord, Take My hand and Lead Me"



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew 20:17-28

Jesus teaches us God's definition of "greatness" and "honor." "Greatness" shows itself in service. Jesus shows His own greatness in this way: He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom.

Led by Pastor Jason Schulz, St. John's, Stanton & shepherd of Peace, Norfolk

¹⁷ Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever

wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

HYMN #426 “Yours Forever, God of Love”



1 Yours for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us
 2 Yours for - ev - er, oh, how blest They who
 3 Yours for - ev - er, Lord of life! Shield us
 4 Yours for - ev - er! Shep - herd, keep All your
 5 Yours for - ev - er! You our guide, All our



from your throne a - bove; Yours for - ev - er
 find in you their rest! Sav - ior, Guard - ian,
 through our earth - ly strife. You, the life, the
 weak and trem - bling sheep Safe - ly in your
 needs by you sup - plied, All our sins by



may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!
 heav'n - ly Friend, Oh, de - fend us to the end.
 truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
 ten - der care; Let us all your good - ness share.
 you for - giv'n, Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

WE DECLARE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH The 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 shall 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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

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

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and provider of our faith.

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

P: Let us pray for 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, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

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

P: Let us pray for 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.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become exhausted in serving those in need.

P: Heavenly Father, worry and fear do not come from You. Rather, it is only Your perfect love, which is shown through Jesus, that we receive any lasting peace and comfort.

C: We pray that You send the perfect love of Your promises on the hearts of all those who are burdened with the fear of this virus.

P: Lord, we know without a doubt that You are bigger than the threat of anything in this world, including disease and sickness. Please comfort those who are living in fear. Please free them from the burden of fear and anxiety. Remind them that You are still on the throne of heaven, and that You are still in control of all world events.

C: Cover us with the peace that comes only from the Prince of Peace. Help those who are living in fear to trust You during this, and every earthly challenge, so that in the days ahead we may rest assured that You are faithful, and are with us here and now until we join with You in heaven.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private prayers.

Silent prayer.

*P: 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. Hear us for Jesus' sake, and in whose name we also pray together... **Our father, who art in heaven...***

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN #431, vss 1,5,6 "I Walk in Danger All the Way"



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way; The thought
5 I walk with Je - sus all the way; His guid -
6 My walk is heav'n - ward all the way; A - wait



shall nev - er leave me That Sa - tan, who has
ance ne - ver fails me. He takes my ev - 'ry
my soul, the mor - row, When you fare - well can



marked his prey, Is plot - ting to de - ceive
fear a - way When Sa - tan's pow'r as - sails
glad - ly say To all your sin and sor -



me. This foe with hid - den snares May seize me
me, And, by his foot - steps led, My path I
row. All world - ly pomp be gone! To heav'n I



un - a - wares If e'er I fail to watch and
Safe - ly tread. In spite of ills that threat - en
Now press on For all the world I would not



pray; I walk in dan - ger all the way.
may, I walk with Je - sus all the way.
stay My walk is heav'n - ward all the way.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of the COVID 19 Virus:

- 1) The **weekend services** for March 21-22 and March 28-29 have been canceled, as well as the remainder of the Wednesday **Lenten Services and suppers**. We will then re-evaluate on April 1 for future services. We are hoping to have a normal Easter Service on April 12.

Please visit www.stpls.com/livestream to watch our Sunday Service live online at 9:00 AM, or to access past services by clicking on the YouTube link.

Our Radio Broadcast is on 94.7 KNEN-FM on Sundays at 9:00 AM. If you have any technology questions, please contact Mr. Brown or Mr. Paulsen.

- 2) The Spring Break has been extended. NO School from March 16-April 3. We are hoping to return April 6 with “distance learning” starting March 26.
- 3) The **Blood Drive** will still be held here at St. Paul’s (at the church) on **Monday, March 23** from 12:00-6:00 PM. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org or talk to Gary Jackson or Carol Wachter.