

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

6 p.m. Sat., March 9, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., March 10, 2024
Sermon: "Genuine Love"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(6 p.m. Sat., March 9 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., March 10, 2024)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Ruthie Witte ; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Paulette Schmidt

Usher: Dallas Schulz

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf and the Siouxland Hispanic

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat., Ron Cason; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Dallas Schulz

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

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!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP 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. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE THREE

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(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation

"We Praise You Acknowledge You, O God."

LSB 941

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *John 3:16*

P: God so loved the world,
C: that He gave His only Son,

P: that whoever believes in Him should not perish
C: but have eternal life.

P: Our Lenten journey leads us to the cross where Jesus gave His life,
C: and then to the resurrection and eternal life.

Confession and Absolution

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. *Hebrews 10:22*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:5*
(A moment of silence for reflection of God's word and 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. *John 20:19-23*
C: Amen.

Introit

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: 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?

The Gloria Patri (Sung)

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C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie “Lord, Have Mercy” (Sung) *Mark 10:47*

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Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (Sung)

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P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You have loved us with an everlasting love that grants us eternal life. Burn Your love ever stronger within our hearts, Lord, so that we may love others as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Reading Numbers 21:4–9

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

⁴From 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. ⁵And 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.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

⁷And 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

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

The Epistle Lesson Ephesians 2:1–10 (We are saved by grace through faith.)

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in 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—

³among 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. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you

have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

Verse John 3:16

P: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

C: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel John 3:14–21 (God so loved the world.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3 chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord. (*Sung*)

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸Whoever 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. ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But 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. (*Sung*)

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The Apostles' Creed

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

LSB 571

Sermon "Genuine Love"

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

Proverbs 11:25—Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Offertory Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

LSB 588

(stand as you are able)

The Offertory (Sung) Psalm 51:10-12

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The 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 the Draube family. 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, be present with all those who are single. Encourage them with the love of friends and family. Provide caring people to remind them that they are not alone. 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 Linda Brinkert, Susan Horst, Ron Sherrill, and Michael Montagne, also be with those dealing with ongoing sicknesses: Wilma Siefker, Don Lantis, Barb Hageman, Judy Seaman, Steve Segebart, Bernie Attema, Jacob Sulzbach, Vickie Johnson, Ron Will, Carolyn Stuhr, and Kim and Sharon Sparr.* 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.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Brady Mc Cormick, Karen Sherrill, Sherry Welte, Vickie O'Dell, Philip Hageman, Laura Holland, Christina Ramirez, McKenzie Schweigert and Carter Sulzbach. Jesus, may our hearts be burning

C: with more fervent love for You.

P: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised in love to hear our prayers; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

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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: **Amen, Amen, Amen.** (Sung)

The Closing Hymn

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + +



Lenten Service Times

Wednesdays
 at 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 (A Lenten Meal will be served following
 the 6 :00 p.m.)

Our emphasis during Lent is on Moses' book called Exodus. In it, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3) and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the **exodus 125 times!**

Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday	02/14	"Big Things with Small Stuff"	Exodus 2:1–10
Lent 1	02/21	"How God Changes Us"	Exodus 3:1–14
Lent 2	02/28	"Stop Trying and Start Trusting"	Exodus 14:1–29
Lent 3	03/06	"Strike the Rock!"	Exodus 17:1–7
Lent 4	03/13	"Mine!"	Exodus 20:1–17
Lent 5	03/20	"Digging Ourselves into a Hole"	Exodus 32:1–14
Palm Sunday	03/24	"A New Beginning!"	Exodus 34:1–8
Maundy Thursday	03/28	"Access!"	Exodus 24:1–11
Good Friday	03/29	"Agnus Dei"	Exodus 12:1–13
Easter Sunday	03/31	"Against all Odds!"	Exodus 15:1–18

- * Maundy Thursday & Good Friday: 12:15 & 6:00 PM
- * Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday: 8:15 & 10:45 AM
- * Easter Sunrise Service: 7:45 AM

