

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

10:45 a.m. Sunday, 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

10:45 a.m. Sunday, March 10, 2024

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Praise Team Leader: Doris Hill

Usher: Tim Draube

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

Reader: Jami Langholdt

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.

Worship Service

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

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand of Fellowship

The Invocation

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.

Opening Song

“Jesus”

There is a truth older than the ages.
There is a promise of things yet to come.
There is One born for our salvation: Jesus.

There is a light that overwhelms the darkness.
There is a kingdom that forever reigns.
There is freedom from the chains that bind us: Jesus, Jesus.
Who walks on the waters?
Who speaks to the sea?
Who stands in the fire beside me?
He roars like a lion, He bled as the Lamb.
He carries my healing in His Hands. Jesus.

There is a name I call in times of trouble.
There is a song that comforts in the night.
There is a voice that calms the storm that rages.
He is Jesus, Jesus.

Who walks on the waters?
Who speaks to the sea?
Who stands in the fire beside me?
He roars like a lion, He bled as the Lamb.
He carries my healing in His Hands. Jesus.
Messiah, my Savior, there is power in Your name.
You're my Rock and my Redeemer.
There is power in Your name, in Your name.

You walk on the waters,
You speak to the sea,
You stand in the fire beside me.
You roar like a lion,
You bled as the Lamb.
You carried my healing in Your hands.

God, You walk on the water,
You speak to the sea,
You stand in the fire beside me.
You roar like a lion, You bled as the Lamb.
You carried my healing in Your hands.
Jesus, there is no one like You.
Jesus, there is no one like You.

(Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash. CCL: used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Apostles' Creed

First Lesson

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.

Second 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.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

(God so loved the world.)

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 wicked things hates the light and does only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the not come to the light, lest his deeds judgment: the light has come into the should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does world, and people loved the darkness what is true comes to the light, so that it rather than the light because their deeds may be clearly seen that his deeds have were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does been carried out in God.”

Confession and Absolution

P: Though Christ has loved us with this genuine love that gives us eternal life, we sometimes ignore His love and refuse to share Christ’s love with others. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to Him in hope and confidence to ask for His grace.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved our enemies. Forgive us, renew our love, on account of Jesus. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ was lifted up on the tree of the cross so that we might be forgiven. His genuine love is for the world and is for you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. We are forgiven by the genuine love of Jesus.

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “Only By Grace”

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand, not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us, You call us to come,
into your presence you draw us and now by your grace we come.
Now by your grace we come.

Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
But thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.
Lord, if You mark our transgressions, who would stand?
But Father, thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand,
not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb;

Into Your presence You call us. You call us to come,
Into Your presence You draw us and now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come.

Now by your grace we come. (Words & music by Gerrit Gustafson, 1990
Integrity’s Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Word

“Genuine Love”

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

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 “I Worship You, Almighty God”

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. I worship You, O Prince of Peace,

That is what I want to do. I give You praise for You are my righteousness.

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. (Repeat)

There is none like You.

(Words & music by Sondra Corbett, 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song “You Never Let Go”

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear, and even when I’m caught in the middle
of the storms of this life, I won’t turn back, I know You are near.

(Pre-Chorus)

And I will fear no evil for my God is with me,
and if my God is with me whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

(Chorus)

Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm

Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low

Oh no, You never let go Lord, You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
a glorious light beyond all compare, and there will be an end to these troubles
but until that day comes, We’ll live to know You here on the earth (Pre-Chorus, Chorus)

You keep on runnin and You never let go; Singin (Chorus)



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

