

Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

Welcome to worship - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *"It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving." Psalm 95*

Welcome children - Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

<u>MINISTERS</u>		The People of God
<u>PASTOR</u>		Rev. John Shipman
<u>ORGANIST</u>		Marvis McNeil
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u>		Marty Cantleberry
<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Cathy Kieliszewski
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	John and Linda Snyder
	9:00 a.m.	Owen Werth, Roy Wekwert
		Cathy Kieliszewski, Ryan Panknin
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske, Patti Byce
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Kathy Burton, Cathy Kieliszewski
		Nena Shipman, Bonnie Duby
<u>LITTLES' WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Jesse and Jessica O'Neil
<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		Sandy Samp, Laurie Stafford, and Carol Kindt

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Worship Service

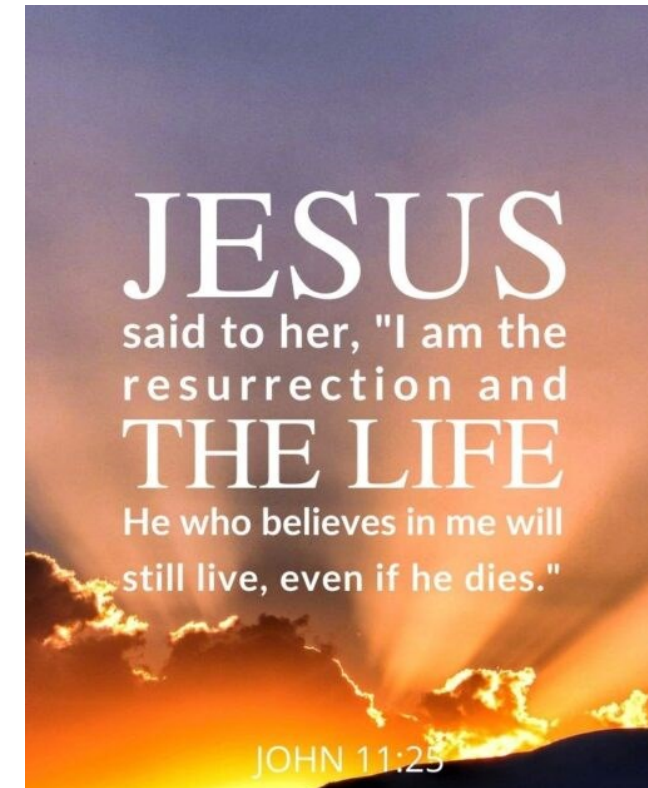
celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658

www.stpaul.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation



2026 Theme: "Be Our Vision Lord"

March 21, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

March 22, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
March 22, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests.
We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious

God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ

offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope

in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come

forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (Red) #333

GREETING

Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

There will be a Pop-Up Hygiene Closet on Saturday, March 28th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. FREE personal care, household cleaning, and laundry products! No sign-up or qualifications required.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Adventure Club is again planning an Easter Egg Hunt for our community within our building, at 12:00 p.m. We would love donations of grass for baskets, candy, and items to be included in our family friendly baskets for the raffle. These items can be dropped off at the office. *Thank you.*

Join us for the Holy Week Services. They are as follows: Palm Sunday we will have our three regular weekend services; Maundy Thursday Worship April 2, at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a Soup Supper at 5:00 p.m.; Good Friday Services, April 3rd -Tre-Ore Service (at First Presbyterian Church) from 12:00-3:00 p.m. There will be an evening service at 6:00 p.m. (at St. Paul), followed by the movie "The Passion" at 7:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have three services: A Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., Liturgical Service at 9:00 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m. There will be an Easter Breakfast after the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service. Please note, there will be no Saturday service on April 4th.

The Forget-Me-Nots will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at noon in the church dining hall. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. We hope to see you there.

If you would like to order an Easter flower in honor or in memory of someone, there are order forms in the Narthex or church office to fill out. The deadline to get your order in is March 30th.

The Scholarship Committee would like to remind all senior high school students and college students, that we are accepting scholarship applications starting April 1st. Applications can be picked up in the office April 1st. Please complete all portions of the application and return it by April 30th.

The Scholarship Committee is grateful to those that have brought in their bottle returns, we ask that you keep them coming! The bottle returns can be placed in the janitorial closet next to the elevator on the Mirre Street side, there is a sign on the door to prevent confusion.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: MARCH 22 – 29, 2026	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.; Celebration of Ministry (at JJ's) – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; AARP Taxes– 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing–2:00 p.m.; Girl Scouts–4:00 p.m.; E.T.A. Group–5:30 p.m.; Feeding Kids Ministry – 5:30 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Recovery Yoga–5:00 p.m.; Cub Scouts–5:30 p.m.; Soul Sisters Easter Card Signing & Fellowship–5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Lent Lunch and Service – 12:00 p.m.; Pastor John Bible Study – 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Choir Practice – 4:00 p.m.; Ecumenical Service/Soup Supper (Grace Lutheran Methodist Church) – 5:30 p.m.; Nena's Book Study – 5:30 p.m.
<u>THURS.</u>	3M Men's Breakfast (JJs) - 7:00 a.m.; Stitches of Joy – 10:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.
<u>FRI.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00 a.m.; Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m.
<u>SAT.</u>	AARP Taxes – 8:00; Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship Service – 5:30 p.m.
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC– 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children's Church/C.I.A.- 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

David McNeil–upcoming surgery	Patricia Nelson - grief	Laura Fair – fell
Bennett Gilmet – medical issues	Milt Paquette – health issues	Chad Hamill – health issues
Kevin Atkinson – health issues	June Sylvester – fractured back	Tina Yeager – health issues
Dixie Crevier – health issues	Storm Yakes – medical issues	Kioni Peoples family - grief
Kevin Reiser – health issues	Greg Dzieszinski- health issues	Lisa Dzieszinski-health issue
Cathy Murtha – medical issues	Joel Foster – health issues	Billie Jo Foster – health issues
Margaret Lucian – health issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Malary Smith – unspecified
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues	Mike H. - illness
John Wegmeyer– health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
	Alan Marwede–health issues	Adam Schmidt- health issues

(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thanks.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Leer Lutheran Church, Posen, Supply Pastors

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Engage Your Enthusiasm group.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Wednesday 03/11- 12:30 p.m. *snow storm*
 Saturday 03/14 5:30 p.m. 113
 Sunday 03/15 9:00 a.m. *ice*
 10:30 a.m. *storm*
 Total 113

END OF JANUARY

Income 21,227.40
Expenses 34,674.00
 Difference (13,446.60)

YEAR TO DATE

21,227.40
34,674.00
 (13,446.60)

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given to the glory of God.

Everyone is invited to join us as we honor Pastor John and Nena in a **Celebration of Ministry** at JJ’s on Sunday, March 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The March Service Activity is Pied Piper School. Items needed: coloring and activity books, markers, large crayons, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Fidget toys would also be great for the students. Please leave your items on the altar. Thank you for your generosity.

Please join us for the last Wednesday Lent Worship Service on March 25. The worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church is at 12:25 p.m., with a Lenten Soup preceding the service at 12:00 p.m. The Ecumenical Activity this week, March 25 will be held at First United Methodist Church at 6:00. with a Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor John and Miss Nena’s Lent Educational Opportunities run through March 25th. Pastor John’s classes meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. ***Come join us!***

Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Tuesday, March 24th. Please call 1-800-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’ ⁵This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 130 (Read Responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

¹Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

(Red) #759

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

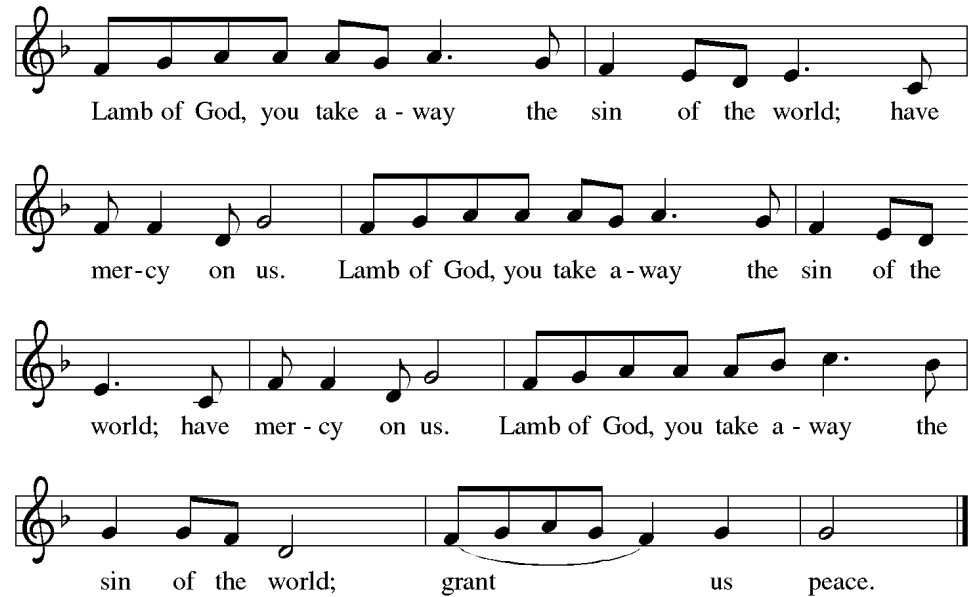
**People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

(Pleased be seated)

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice for those who prefer it.

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

“Jesus Loves Me”
Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me
Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

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(Please be seated)

SERMON

“Jesus Wept”

Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

(Red) #666

Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Universal

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . *(concluding)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
F G C Am F G7 C
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.