

THOSE SERVING IN APRIL

ALTAR: Lori Brueggen & Barb Ornes

READERS:

3rd Arlis Ballwahn
10th Carolyn Dougherty
17th Barb Ornes
24th Miranda Arndt

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Arlis Ballwahn & Barb Ornes



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 3, 2022
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.[^]

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

***Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In [☩] Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" **ELW #319**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Emma Elder, Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Rylan McCarthy, Ellery Tormoen.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen

We have placed an insert in today's bulletin. Please consider making a personal gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. You may send your gift directly or, if you prefer, make your check payable to St. Paul's and we'll send a lump sum under St. Paul's name. Your gift will also be entered in our records for tax purposes.

CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

We will be sponsoring a drive-up chicken dinner on Sunday, April 24. Jamie Thomas will again prepare the barbecue chicken and we'll serve the usual potato salad, beans, cranberry sauce, and dinner roll . The cost will be \$10.00/plate. The church council approved the profit from the dinner to be designated to the cemetery maintenance account. We need your help in selling tickets, not just buying one for yourself and family members. See Nalani for tickets!

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

We have placed information with regard to the summer programs available at Sugar Creek Bible Camp on the table in the narthex. The church contributes 50% of the camping fee.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

We are close to packing 200 care kits using grant money from Thrivent Financial. That is all well and good, but what does that say when we have not received donations from individual members? Open your hearts to those in need and consider donating one or more of the

following items:

Towels:	Size 20" x 40" to 27" x 52", light-weight, dark colors preferred
Soap:	Bath size bars
Combs:	Sturdy
Nail Clippers	Metal, with or without nail file
Tooth Brushes	Please leave in packaging.

Please place your donated items on the table located in the narthex.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C: Amen.

***Canticle of Praise** "Glory to God in the Highest" ELW p. 148

***Prayer of the Day**

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.[^]

First Reading

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue
 with shouts of joy.**
 **Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done
 great things for them.”**
³The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we are glad indeed.
⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
⁵Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

CALENDAR

Wed., April 6	Lenten Service	7:00 pm
Sun., April 10	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, the Ukrainian people have fled their country. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Ukrainian men of military age (18-60) are required to stay in the country, so most of those fleeing the violence are women and children. According to one report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 3 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying their companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

The church council voted to send \$3,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response, specifically earmarked for "Easter Europe Crisis Response". The ladies of the W-ELCA voted to donate \$500.00. **The gifts will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.**

You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:
keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:
prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together.
Heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

Help Pastor Cathleen Morris and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Sending Hymn “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW #618

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Arlis Ballwahn; Altar: Lori Brueggen & Barb Ornes; Communion Servers: Arlis Ballwahn & Barb Ornes

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Gary Von Ruden, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Curt Brieske, Randy Steinbrink, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt, Sacia Morris, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Rylan McCarthy, Judy Bever.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

Second Reading

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation “Return to the Lord, your God” ELW p. 151

GOSPEL READING

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

John 12:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am" (X3) ELW #814

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Merciful God, receive our prayer.)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

C: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Council President: Do you offer your encouragement for her future calling?

C: We do, and may the Holy Spirit be your guide.

Council President: Pastor Cathleen Morris, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with St. Paul's Lutheran Church?

P: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Council President: Do you offer encouragement for the continued ministry here?

P: I do, may the Holy Spirit continue to move in and through the work of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Council President: On behalf of the La Crosse Area Synod, we witness to the words spoken here: words of thankfulness and release. We thank you for your service and will hold you in prayer as you continue to follow God's calling in your life at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church, partners in the shared ministry of Florence Parish.

Thanksgiving and Sending

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ You gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service.

We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Cathleen Morris among the people of God in this place.

(Walk to Baptismal Font) I have baptized people in the name of God and gathered many around these waters to give thanks for the gift of baptism. I now release this ministry into your care.

(Walk to Pulpit) I have, to the best of my ability, faithfully preached the word of God in this place, asked you to join me in conversation, and together learned to continue our path as God's children. I now release this ministry into your care.

(Walk to the Altar) I have gathered you around God's table of love and mercy. Never forget, that we are not the hosts at this table, but rather it is Jesus Christ, who always has arms wide open and offers forgiveness, grace, and healing. I now release this ministry into your care.

(Walk out into the center of the congregation) I have shared the highs and lows of life with you. I've been there for births, confirmations, graduations, weddings, and burials. I have visited you in your homes, in hospitals, shared meals, and served the community together. I now release this ministry into your care.

(Walk back to the front) I thank you, people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, for the love and support shown me during my ministry among you. Please forgive the times I may have fallen short of our expectations for ministry together and I offer my forgiveness to you for the times you fell short as well. For the ministry we have shared, I give you my thanks.

C: We receive your thankfulness and forgiveness. We offer our forgiveness in return. We are grateful for your time among us. Your influence on our congregation will not leave us at your departure, for you have left a mark on this place.

Council President: People of God, members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Cathleen Morris from service as your pastor?

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ^

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 153

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

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

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.

P: Here is food and drink for the journey.

Take and be filled.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

*Benediction

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call for a Pastor

Leader: Pastor Cathleen Morris, on March 1, 2019, we of St. Paul's Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's Table. With the gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

Leader: *A reading from Isaiah:* Thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not

overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (*Isaiah 43:1-3*)

Leader: When you came to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community, you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Leader: We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts with Bethlehem Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church, the Florence Parish, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Leader: Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Cathleen Morris. Thank you for the time we have shared with her. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others.

Leader: Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of Pastor Cathleen, who has enriched this congregation and community by sharing her gifts. Now bless and preserve Pastor Cathleen at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Leader: Now let us formally release Pastor Cathleen Morris as our Pastor.

Pastor: I give thanks for the life we have shared in Christ. I now prepare to release my role and responsibilities as your pastor.