

We ask that all members join the Women of 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; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson and Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter and Jaxson Puhl; Eason Kelbel; Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Luke and Joelle Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Dakota Adams; Kendall Christopherson, Hudson Birkholz; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Dominic Young; Avilynn McNamer; Ayla Arndt; Lainey Myers.

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 children throughout the world, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.
Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
10:15 AM

**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
Family In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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

*Welcome and Announcements

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Gathering

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

Hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" ELW#752

***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.

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

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

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

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

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

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

CALENDAR

Sun., March 22	Sunday School	9:00am
	Worship	10:15am
	Council Meeting	11:15am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNIVERSARY/HISTORY COMMITTEE

The anniversary/history committee will be meeting immediately after worship today in the parsonage.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Shana Adams and Sid and Marie Thayer & family as members to St. Paul's next week. Please attend the service and the reception to follow.

Greg Bever would like to thank Colston and Kinley Thayer for staying at the luncheon last Sunday so that he did not have to eat barbecue all week.

SCAMMING PRESENTATION

Thank you to those who attended the presentation. Safe to say we all learned at least one thing. We will be inviting Jeff back for presentation on other topics of interest throughout the year.

Amen.
Hymn **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”** **ELW#623**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Linda, Jeremy Munson, Gordy O’Rourke,
Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt,
Nick Evans, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon
Fronk, Nikki Fronk Lewis, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Brian,
Alice Leis, Darlene Diekrager, Jack Arndt, Daniel Paulson,
Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia, Marie Jacobson, Rick
Brandau, Paul North, Nora Martin.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister:
Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Greg
Bever; Communion Server: Barb Ornes

CALENDAR

Wed., March 11	Lenten Service	6:30 pm
Sun., March 15	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Sunday School	
	Birthday & Anniversary Recognition	
	Welcome New Members	
	Cake & Coffee Following Service	

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

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench
our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water
always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with
the beauty of your truth through 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

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put
God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God.
God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water
for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is
the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive
answer.*

A Reading from Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the
Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded.
They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the
people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and

said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go."⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

As you leave this place,

When you meet anger, speak with love.

When you meet fear, speak with hope.

When you meet pain, speak of gentleness.

But no matter what, speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is

love and justice for all.

It is joy that surprises,

And nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,

so go forth speaking.

For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God

for this good, good news.

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's
pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**⁸ "Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the
desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my
works.

**¹⁰ Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do
not know my ways.'**

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that ⁵

affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We believe in a table-setting God
who always has a seat saved for you.
We believe in an inviting God
who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.
We believe in a radically welcoming God
**Who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,
the hungry and the downtrodden.**
We believe in the good news of the gospel, which reminds
us
**that all are welcomed, all are celebrated,
all are loved, and all are claimed.**
Pull up a seat at God's table.
**There is good news to be shared here.
Amen.**

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

***Litany & Prayers (Holden Evening Prayer) Insert**

OFFERING

**Offertory Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Were the whole realm of na-ture mine,
That were a pres-ent far too small;
Love so a-maz-ing, so di-vine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***GOSPEL READING**

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The holy gospel according to John 4:5-42

Glory to you, O Lord

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water

gushing up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be

the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling

Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn

“For All the Faithful Women”

ELW# 419

Verses 1,8, Last