

## **DINNER TICKETS**

We need to see as many tickets as we can by April 1 to give Rooster Andy a preliminary number. While it might seem like a lot of pressure, most tickets are sold within 2 weeks

of an event. This is a fund raiser for a new sign. Call your friends and neighbors.

## **CHOIR**

We'd like to have the choir share a song at the morning Easter service. If you are interested in joining, please gather by the piano in the rear of the church after service.

Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.

March 21, 2026 was declared National Quilting Day, and Lutheran World Relief is celebrating.

We, at St. Paul's are also celebrating. Today we have displayed some of the many beautiful quilts that have been created by our "Quilting Ladies".

These quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and are distributed throughout the world, including in our United States.

We so often take for granted grabbing a quilt or blanket and taking a nap or reading a book and relaxing. Providing a quilt to those who have little or nothing, brings them comfort and warmth.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2026  
10:15 AM

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

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

*\*(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 (2X)**

## **\*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.

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister:  
Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Arlis Ball-  
wahn; Communion Server: Barb Bever

### CALENDAR

Today	New Member Welcome	11:30 am
	Council Meeting	12:15 pm
Wed., March 25	Lenten Service	6:30 pm
Sun., March 29	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Parade of Palms	10:00 am
	Palm Sunday Worship	10:15 am
Thurs., April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
Friday, April 3	Good Friday	6:30 pm
	Prayer Vigil	7:30 pm — 9:00 pm
Sat., April 4	Prayer Vigil	7:00 am — 4:00 pm
Sun., April 5	Easter Sunrise	6:30 am
	Sunrise Breakfast	7:30 am — 9:30 am

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW MEMBERS** Dakotah and Shana Adams as well as  
and Sid and Marie Thayer along with their family as  
members of St. Paul's. Please join in the basement after  
service for cake and refreshments.

## 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. Amen.**

Hymn

**"You Are the Way"**

**ELW#758**

### 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, Nora Martin.

Hymn

**"Restore in Us, O God"**

**ELW#328**

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

**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.**

### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that  
Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in  
their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times  
Israel is assured that through this vision they will know  
that "I am the LORD."*

### **A Reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me  
out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the mid-  
dle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around  
them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they  
were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones

live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

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

## 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.

***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.**

## 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.**

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

## Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,  
O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness,  
in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;  
in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep  
watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there  
is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the LORD shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.**

### SECOND READING

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

#### A reading from Romans 8:6-11

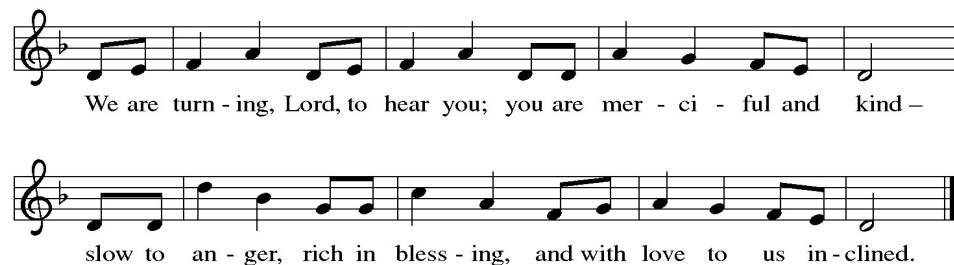
<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit

to God's law—indeed, it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

### \*GOSPEL READING

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

**The holy gospel according to Gospel: John 11:1-45**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with

### Welcome

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

\*Litany & Prayers (Holden Evening Prayer) Insert

Hymn "Beautiful Savior" ELW #838, v 3&4

### 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.

### 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.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism  
among God's people in this place?

*I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

People of God,  
do you promise to support and pray for Shana, Marie, and Sid,  
new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here,

my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench

because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling

Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW#838, v1&2

**Presentation of New Members**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Shana, Dakotah, Marie, Sid and family, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

**\*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,**