

EASTER CHOIR

Interested? Let Nalani know, **ASAP**.

Fundraising for Youth Trip

Please take time to visit with Miranda Arndt, for additional information, with regard to two opportunities you have to help the youth of St. Paul's, Peace, St. Peters and St. Stephen's raise funds to offset the cost of attending the ELCA Youth Gathering being held in New Orleans this summer. Both Kwik Trip and the Tomah Culver's are providing programs to assist the young people in this endeavor. Now it is our turn to support them.

The Seven last Words of Jesus on the Cross

The Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse is offering a four-week Session on Tuesdays beginning February 27, and continuing on March 5, March 12 and March 19. The sessions may be attended in person or on zoom with a \$10.00 cost per session. Advance registration is required by calling 608-791-5295 or going online @www.FSCenter.org. John McHugh explores how Jesus' words were mirrored in his public ministry and what they mean for us today.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

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

Announcements

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale,
Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson,
Erin Laperle, Kim Ballwahn, Heidi Stenerson, Doug Short, Sally Dana.

CALENDAR

Feb. 25	Pot Luck Following Service	
Feb. 28	Supper	5:00 PM
	Holden Evening Prayer	6:00 PM
March 2	Movie in Elroy	2:30 PM
March 3	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Bishop Malpica, coming to Wilton to install Pastor Sparling and leading us in worship today. We look forward to many opportunities in the future to share worship with you.

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Summer is just around the corner and with it, time to plan going to camp. Brochures are located in the narthex.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

We will collect items for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits throughout the Lenten season. Here are the items that make-up a kit:

One light-weight bath-size towel

Two bath-size soap bars

Word

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

First Reading

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

A reading from Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Psalm 22:23-31

- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line,
give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their
poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts
live forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel
before the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading:

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

A reading from Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Distribution

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

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.**

Sending

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

*Benediction

*Hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God..**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Presiding Minister: Rev. Felix Malpica,
Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani
Bever; Reader: Lori Arndt

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please join together in the Offertory Prayer

**Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.**

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Great Thanksgiving

ELW p. 190

*Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 190

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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,

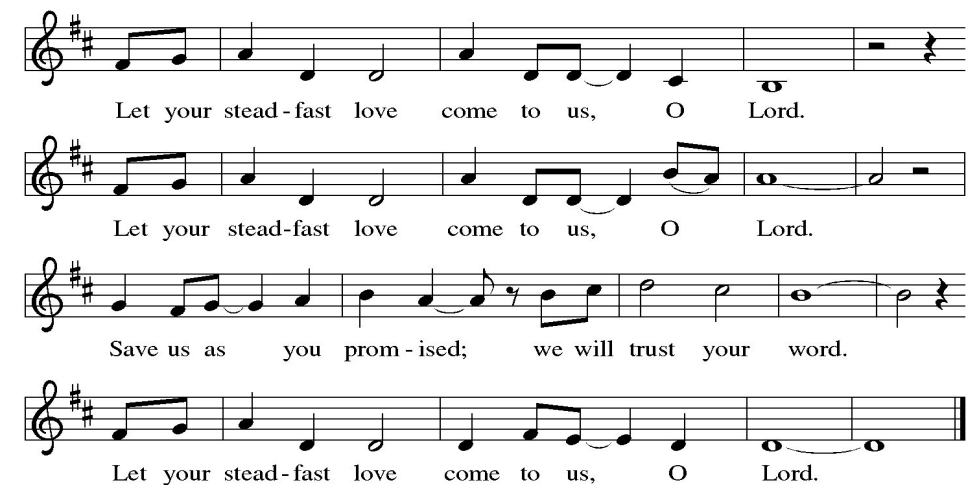
forever and ever.

Amen.

is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

The holy gospel according to Mark 8:31-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Sermon

Rev. Felix Malpica, Bishop
La Crosse Area Synod

*Hymn

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW#812

*Apostles' 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.

Installation of Council Members

Installation of Pastor Sparling

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

*Offertory Hymn

"Create in Me A Clean Heart"

ELW#186