

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
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
10:15 AM

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

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

**(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 disdainning 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Shana Adams and Sid and Marie Thayer & family as members to St. Paul's. Please join in the basement after service for cake and refreshments.

TICKETS

Please get out there and sell tickets for the April 12 Chicken Q. Surely each of you have 5 friends or more you may ask about buying a ticket. This is for the sign fund.

so go forth speaking.
For if you won't, then who will?
Thanks be to God
for this good, good news. Amen.

Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" ELW#324

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: Lorrie
Bever; Communion Server: Barb Bever

CALENDAR

Wed., March 18	Lenten Service	6:30 pm
Thurs., March 19	Quilting	9:00 am
Sun., March 22	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead" ELW#614

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**

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come
among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring
light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with
your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-
oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height
or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came
endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David
as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

A Reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over
Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill
your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the
Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among
his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it,
he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you

and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD."⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

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.**

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,

Pull up a seat at God's table.
There is good news to be shared here.
Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

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.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod
and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus
Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of
Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

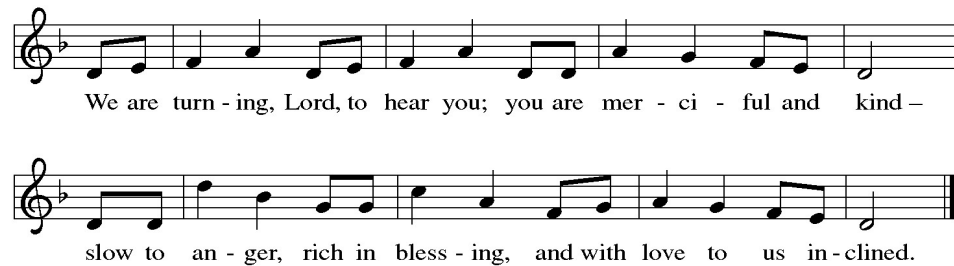
A reading from Ephesians 8:5-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are
light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is
found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find
out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the un-
fruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is
shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for
everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on 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 heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The holy gospel according to John 9:1-41

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your

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.

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.**

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 *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?

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

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.**

Hymn **“Amazing Grace”** **ELW#779 (vs. 4-5)**
***Litany & Prayers** **(Holden Evening Prayer)** **Insert**

OFFERING

eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not

know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“Amazing Grace”** **ELW# 779 (vs 1-3)**

Presentation of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these *people*, 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,
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.