



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**(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.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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

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.

SOFA

We are looking for a sofa to be put in the pastor's study? Might you have one that you're thinking of replacing? If so, please let Pastor Karen or Nalani know. Doesn't need to be fancy, certain color, etc., just in relatively good shape. Thanks!!

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

***KYRIE ELW p. 184**

***Canticle of Praise “Glory to God” ELW p.185**

***Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved
the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected
your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy
angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

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

One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging

One sturdy comb—remove packaging

One metal nail clippers—remove packaging

You may also donate to the cause and we'll do the shopping. Just mark your offering envelope or a plan envelope of your donation.

Thank you for supporting this cause. The refugee camps throughout the world are filled with folks in need.

MOVIE INVITATION

Bethany Lutheran Church in Mauston and Thrivent are sponsoring a free movie during Lent and are inviting the community to join them at the Elroy Theater on Saturday, March 2 at 2:30 PM for the showing of the movie **One Night With the King**. The movie is a dramatization of the Biblical story of Esther who risked her life by approaching the King of Persia to request that he save the Jewish People. he movie is two hours long and is rated PG. The doors will open at 2:00 PM with concessions available for purchase.

The have sent 10 tickets with more being available. Please see Nalani for tickets.

CALENDAR (cont'd.)

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Feb. 25 | Sunday School | 9:00 am |
| | Worship | 10:15 am |
| | Installation of Pastor Sparling | |
| | Pot Luck Following Service | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Pastor Karen will be leading a first communion class for those in 3rd grade as well as any children who are older but didn't have the class. As with Christmas program practice, the class will begin at 8:00 AM on the following Sundays: March 3, 10, 17, and 24th. The students will then take communion on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please direct any questions to Pastor Karen.

Lenten Mid-Week Services

We'd like to try something a little different this year. Soup & sandwich from 5:00—5:50 PM and then service at 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those who would like to plan, prepare, and serve the meal.

Installation of Pastor Sparling with Bishop Malpica officiating

Pastor Sparling will be installed on Sunday, February 25, with Bishop Malpica presiding. A suggestion, and a good one, is to have a pot-luck dinner after service in celebration of the installation and an opportunity to get to visit with Bishop Malpica. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex for salads, casseroles, and desserts. If you'd like to bring something else, please write it down. The church will provide ham sandwiches and potatoes of some kind.

Word

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

First Reading

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

A reading from Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**
⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day
long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your goodness, O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading:

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God,
so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This
spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

A reading from 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark,

Sending

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

*Benediction

*Hymn "I'm Going on a Journey" ELW #446

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.
C: **Thanks be to God..**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Bud Osteboe

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

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Anita Steinke and family on the passing of her sister, Eleanor Herman.

CALENDAR

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Today | Noisy Offering | |
| | Birthday & Anniversary Fellowship | 11:15 am |
| | Brief Council Meeting | |
| Feb. 21 | Soup & Sandwich | 5:00 pm |
| | Lenten Service | 6:00 pm |
| | Calendar continued on next page | |

*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.

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.**

in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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



GOSPEL READING

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

The holy gospel according to Mark 1:9-15

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

Sermon Reverend Karen Sparling

***Hymn** **"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"** **ELW#326**

***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.

***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**

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

**Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**

***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**

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