

*the* FIFTH SUNDAY *in* LENT  
March 28, 2020

St. Paul Lutheran Church | 95 W. State St, Coldwater, MI 49036  
[www.stpaulcoldwater.com](http://www.stpaulcoldwater.com) | 517-278-8061 | Facebook: @StPaulColdwater



## AS WE GATHER

Long before Jesus' death and resurrection, God made clear to His people that death would not have the last word. As Ezekiel was inspired to write of the dry bones of death having life breathed into them, it would foreshadow the future for God's people through the One who conquered death and grave once for all. In a world of death and decay, we are sustained in our journey now until the resurrection of all flesh through Jesus Christ, our life-giving Lord and Savior.

## ORDER of WORSHIP

### WELCOME

#### OPENING HYMN "In Christ Alone"

1. **In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand**
2. **In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live**
3. **There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**
4. **No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

### PREPARATION

**INVOCATION** ✠ *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## SERVICE *of the* WORD

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon 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."

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the

*Ezekiel 37:1–14*

breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God,

## HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

### **C Glory to You, O Lord.**

When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he

*Romans 8:1–11*

for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

### **C Thanks be to God.**

*John 11:17–27, 38–53*

die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." . . .

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of

the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come

and take away both our place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ!**

*During the SERMON HYMN, you will have an opportunity to submit prayer requests. To do so post in the chat PRAYER REQUEST in all capital letters, followed by your request. Our volunteers will gather them to be offered up during the Prayer of the Church.*

### **SERMON HYMN “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”**

- 1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**
- 3. The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**
- 4. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun**

### *Chorus*

**My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace**

### **SERMON**

## **NICENE CREED**

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** We come, O Lord, with the dry bones of our  
broken hopes and disappointed dreams. Bind  
us up in Christ, that we may learn to pray with

confidence, trusting in Your mercy to supply  
us with all things needful to us and to our  
salvation.

P Almighty God, everlasting Father, You saw Israel in their despair and raised them up to hope by placing Your Spirit upon them. Join us together with the communion of saints in Christ, even though we must for a time stand apart. Raise us up from our weariness and grant us Your Spirit, that we may be strong in faith, bold in witness, holy in life and steadfast in hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O eternal Lord, Your Son has given us the new birth of water and the Word and planted faith in us, that we might be Your own children. Bless Your Church. Supply her with able, fearless and caring pastors to nurture us in Your Word. Raise up faithful fathers and those who will teach and pray in Your name in every Christian household. Keep Your Church in Your mercy, that she may believe without fear and love without limit even now. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O God of power and might, You hold in Your hand all the might of man. Give to us good government and faithful leaders who will heed Your Word and pursue righteousness and justice. Bless and defend us against all destruction, especially from this deadly pandemic, and teach us to be patient and faithful citizens of this land, using ourselves and our resources wisely for the good of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O merciful Lord, Your Son shed tears for Lazarus, whom He loved. Grant Your compassion, patience and endurance to all who suffer illness, who are troubled in mind or whose time on earth is short. Spare us from death now, but give us courage and comfort far stronger by Your power over death. Eternal God, You carry the grief of those who mourn and remember all who die in Christ.

Give comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying, and give that same comfort and peace to us who live in the shadow and fear of death, that we would neither live nor grieve as people without hope but trust in You at every hour. Hear all our prayers, especially on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ and for all those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O gracious God, You daily and richly grant us all things we need for this body and life. Bless our labors, and grant us wisdom to use the fruits of those labors wisely and well, for the care of our families, for the poor in their needs, and for the support of Your work in this congregation. Preserve us from fear and greed as we live and work alone, and turn us instead in love toward our neighbors however distant. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O blessed Lord, Your Word continues to go forth and bear good fruit. Bless the missionaries planting churches near and far, bless those churches with whom we partner in the worldwide work of the Gospel, and bless the congregations now struggling to fulfill Your bidding and do what You have called them to do in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, God Almighty, through Your Son You have kept the promise of the ages and rescued us from sin. You have raised up the dry bones of a people captive to death and made us alive in Christ forever. Sustain us in this hope, that we may endure the tests, trials and troubles of this life and be ready when our Savior comes again in His glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

**BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT STREAMING**

**CLOSING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

*LSB 656*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
But for us fights the val - iant One,  
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
He's by our side up - on the plain



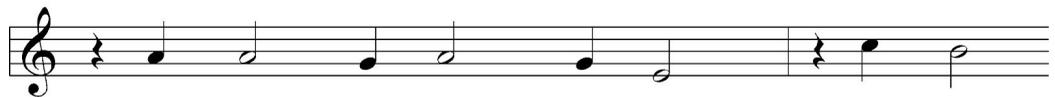
That hath us now o'er-tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Tune and text: Public domain



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## SERVING *in the* LORD'S HOUSE

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Aaron B. Chittick	<b>Secretary</b>	Renee Taden
<b>Administrative Assist.</b>	Laura Oswood	<b>Organist</b>	Kay Kaepf
<b>Preschool Teacher</b>	Lisa Dove	<b>Praise Team</b>	Lisa Dove Karin Kennedy
<b>Preschool Helper</b>	Jenni Dixon	<b>Treasurer</b>	Donna Hobday
<b>Interpreter for the Deaf</b>	Mary Smith		

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Cancer patients:* Christine Barry; Ann Bauer; Kollan Dull; Sheila Eberts; Rob Eickmann; Melvin Gallatin; Dennis Gaspar; Rev. David Gruenhagen; Jackie Harris; Tim Herman; Jake; Grace Lindemann; Lisa & her mom; MaryJane; Adian Motta; Insa Raymond; Reese; John Sherman; Barbara Slaughter; Steve; Tina; Tom; Carol Unroe; Rusty Zimmerman.

*Family & Friends:* Anne; Vic Guenther; Debbie Jenner; Eileen Luckert; Ann Mendelsohn; Steven Post; Rick; Doreen Robinson; Bill Tunison.

*Shut-ins:* Carol Heffelfinger; Cheryl Rosch; Sally Uhrig; Carol Unroe; Carol Yearling.

*Those in military service:* Lance Bonkoske; Andrew Hatfield; Jeffrey Kaepf; Tristan Karl; Thomas Lenz; Nickole DeNio; Joe Meyer; Lisa Meyer; Logan Ostrander; Devan Paugh; Ryan Schlueter; Chelsea Seegmiller; Heath Taner; Arie Vinceguerra.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please have all announcements to the office by 12pm, Wednesdays.*

**Office Closed Open** According to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order on March 23, the church office is closed until further notice. We will continue to monitor email. Please call Pastor Aaron if you need to at 407.925.9025.

**Flower Sale!** The Youth are taking orders for flowers, plants, and baskets. Support the Youth and get a start on summer. Last day to place orders is TODAY, March 29. Contact the church office via email or Facebook, Lisa Mobley, or one of the Youth.

**Lent Midweek Meals and Lent Midweek Worship** Cancelled

**March Life Essentials Drive** Please help us collect items for Beginnings Care for Life Center! New homemaking and personal care items are needed, from house wares to laundry soap. They'll be used in the Center's Earning & Learning Program, where parents earn items that they need while receiving Parenting and Life-Skills Education. Save up your items and bring them in when this is all over and we will take them to Beginnings.

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## THIS WEEK *at* ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday 3/29     9:00am    Worship - Facebook Live  
Sunday 4/5     9:00am    Worship - Facebook Live