

**MY HOPE**  
**IS BUILT ON**  
**NOTHING LESS THAN**  
*Jesus blood*  
**AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

#### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from Pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise Pastor Ermeling as he comes by during communion.

## As We Gather

The word of the day is “hope”. The Israelites lose “hope” in the leadership of Moses in the dessert. Jesus teaches Nicodemus of the “hope” of being born again. We need to realize that our only hope for salvation is in Jesus.

*Stand*

**Hymn**

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

440 sts. 1-3, 5-6

*During Lent the service begins with the Litany and the Collect of the Day.*

*This replaces the regular Preparatory Rite, Introit, and Kyrie.*

## ✠ THE LITANY ✠

**P** O Lord,

**P** O Christ,

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**C** have mercy.

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father in Heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;

By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity;  
In the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You:

**C** **to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To rule and govern Your Holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God:

**C** We implore You to hear us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

## ✠ ABSOLUTION ✠

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Sit

## Old Testament

*Exodus 17:1–7*

*(The people show a lack of hope in the leadership of Moses.)*

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
**who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

Romans 5:1-5

*(Paul tells us what hope is all about.)*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Tract

*Psalm 123:1-3a*

To You I lift up my eyes,

O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,**

**so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us.**

**Have mercy upon us, O LORD,**

**have mercy upon us.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 3:1-17*

*(Jesus has a secret meeting with Nicodemus to confirm his hope is built on nothing less...)*

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

*575 sts. 2-3, 4*

**Sermon**

## Offering

*Stand*

## Offertory



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition:***P** Let us pray to the Lord.**C** Lord, have mercy.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
  
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
  
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Sit

## Distribution Hymns

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

435

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

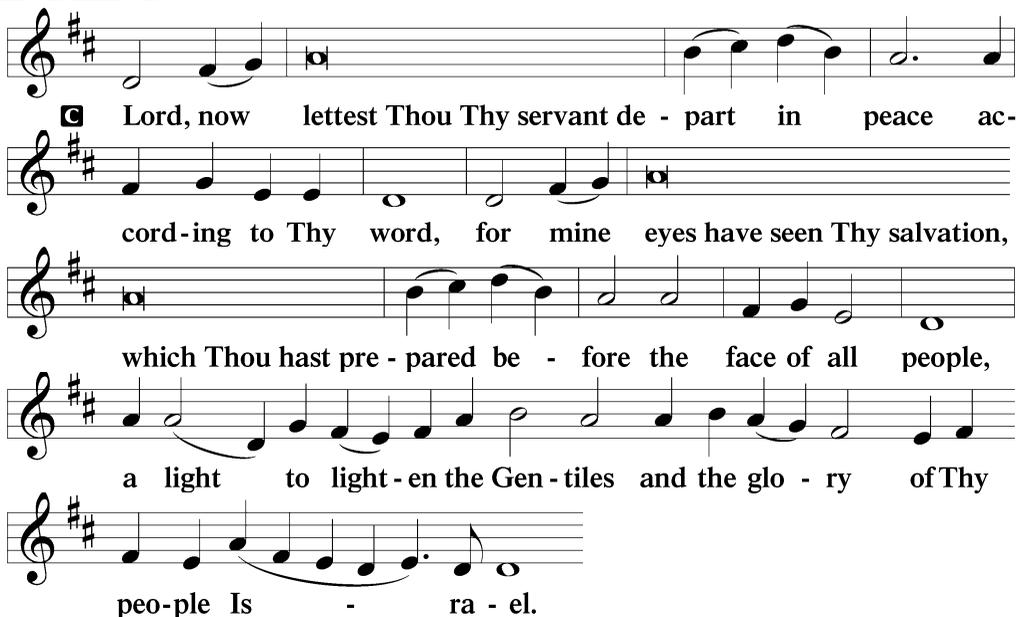
743

Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode

714

Stand

## Nunc Dimittis



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## Thanksgiving

**P** O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.

**C** And His mercy endureth forever.

**P** Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your Only-Begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

## Glory Be to Jesus

433

### Acknowledgments

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*“To Shine Forth the Light of God’s Love into Our World”*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
<b>Monday, March 9</b>	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library
<b>Thursday, March 12</b>	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library
<b>Saturday, March 14</b>	8:30am	CPR Class	Irmer Hall

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

03/09 – Lutecia Belleh

## KARAOKE FOR CHRISTIAN HYMN

You can sing hymns like “The Angel Gabriel,” “Silent Night,” “This Joyful Eastertide,” “The Day of Resurrection,” “Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” and more. Lutheran Public Radio has produced YouTube videos of more than 55 hymns featuring the Lutheran Public Radio Choir. Sing along at [lutheranpublicradio.org/karaoke](http://lutheranpublicradio.org/karaoke).

## LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Start your week with a timely devotional message written by Dr. Seltz delivered to your email inbox. Subscribe at [www.lcrlfreedom.org/#subscribe](http://www.lcrlfreedom.org/#subscribe).

## LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29	9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday, April 2	7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 3	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday, April 5	9:30 AM



**SHEPHERD'S  
CANYON** RETREAT  
MINISTRY  
ARIZONA & MISSOURI



**Jennie Williamson  
in Concert**

**You're invited!**

**Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 21, 2026 | Noon–3:00 PM**

**Shepherd's Canyon – Standing Stones**

Enjoy a free lunch by the pool, meaningful music, powerful testimonies,  
and a ministry update as we celebrate what God is doing.

**Please RSVP: [ShepherdsCanyon.org/celebration](https://www.shepherds-canyon.org/celebration)**

March 20th & 21st  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
830 E Plaza Circle  
Litchfield Park AZ  
623.935.4665



**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

FRIDAY | 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Doors open at 6:00pm with wine and a charcuterie table, Session 1 begins at 7:00pm

SATURDAY | 9:00am - 1:00pm

Doors open at 9:00am with breakfast and beverage bar, Session 2 begins at 10:00am, catered lunch served at noon

Tickets are \$25/person, \$50/family max. and may be purchased at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/1517org-with-daniel-emery-price>

## LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaulslutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaulslutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.

### ON-GOING CONCERNS:

Rose Tressler – health issues

Sharon Meyer – recovering from auto accident.

Jorge Jimenez – fighting cancer

Nicholas Jimenez – health issues

Suzi Riley – recovering from a recent fall.

Wayne Bartels – ongoing health issues

Jim Rucker – health issues

Pat Haas – ongoing health issues

### PRAISE REPORT:

Rei Irmer (sister of Louise Ahrens) was finally able to have her surgery, and everything went well. God be praised! Thank you for all the prayers and support throughout this long journey!

### MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan, serving in Japan.

PSWD Missions

### PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Substitute Pastors and their families

Sunday School teachers & children

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

The Rev. Vernen Ermeling and family

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (*members, friends, or relatives*):

Jackson Buffington (*Ahrens*), Maxwell Buffington (*Ahrens*), Andy Smiley (*Parker*), Julian Perez (*Perez*)

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Anne Smith