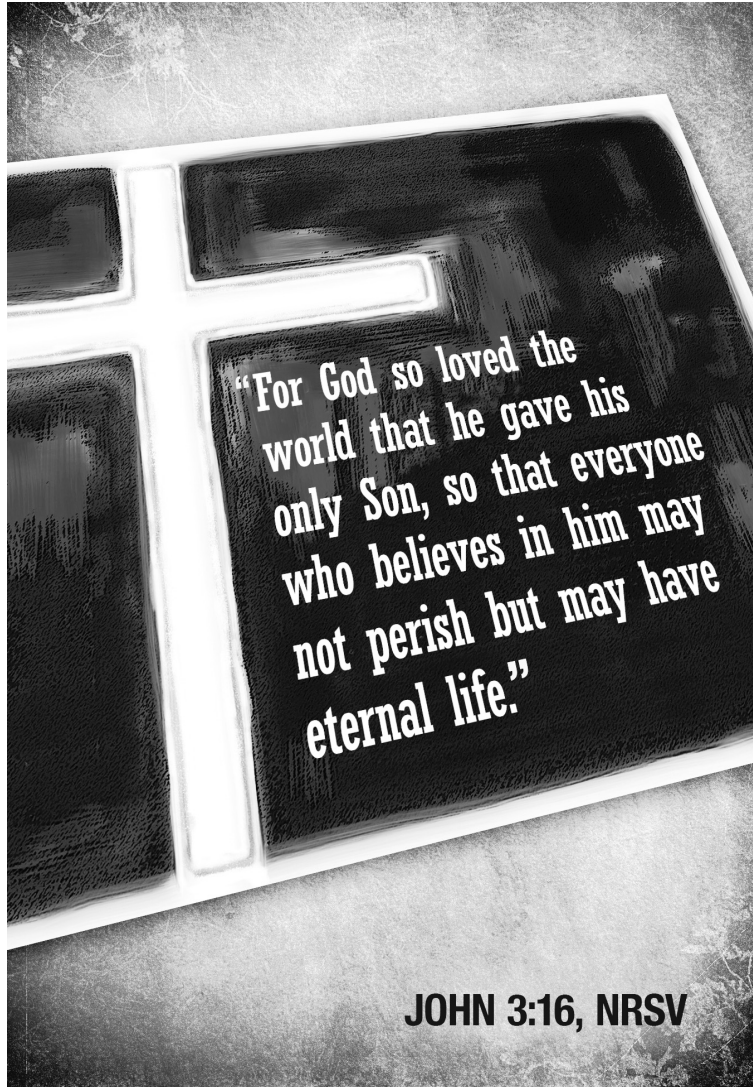


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



JESUS CHRIST: SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the Bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Your offering and connect card** can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you have a smartphone, you can fill out the online connect card. Empty offering plates will be brought forward and placed on the altar to symbolize our sacrifice to God.
- † **Children's bulletins** can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. Children are welcome to come forward during the Children's Message, but feel free to keep them in the pew if that makes you are more comfortable.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



In the history of the Christian Church, this Sunday is called Laetare Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. Why? In the middle of all the sadness and sorrow over the reality of our sin, we get to hear the gospel message sing loud and clear for us today. It does so through arguably the most well-known verse of the Bible, John 3:16; the gospel is spelled out emphatically in Ephesians 2; the good news of Jesus is illustrated in the events of Numbers 21. All these things which tell us how God has been merciful to us through Jesus certainly cause us to rejoice today and always.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is purple, the color of Lent, which signifies repentance and mourning over sin.

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748 "Lamb of God" Text & Tune: by Twila Paris © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing. CCLI#145043

Psalm 32. Words and Music: *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

"By Your Grace" Words & Music by Michael Schroeder © 2009 Worldwide Impact Publishing (ASCAP) CCLI#145043

¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and the pulpit.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.

WELCOME

Building off of John 3:16, this hymn provides a solid start to our worship by touching on some of the many blessings that stem from God's love.

OPENING HYMN

*God Loved the World So that He Gave | CW 391
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All; 5-Song Leaders; 6-All*

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation (C): **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

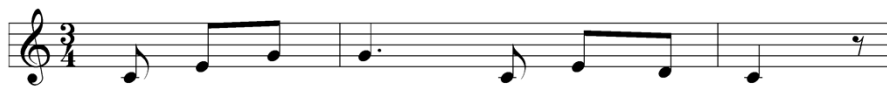
PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

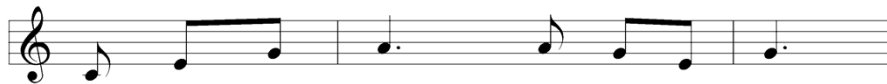
C:

Lamb of God

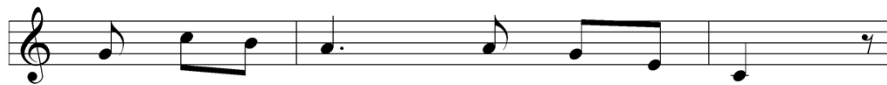
Song Leaders will sing the verses; All sing the refrain.



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide,
2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied.
3 I was so lost; I should have died,



But you have sent him from your side
They laughed and scorned him as he died:
But you have brought me to your side

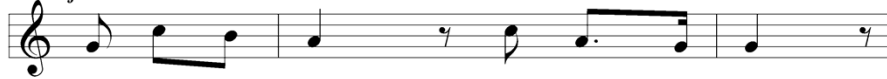


To walk up - on this guilt - y sod
The hum - ble King they named a fraud
To be led by your staff and rod



And to be - come the Lamb of God.
And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
And to be called a lamb of God.

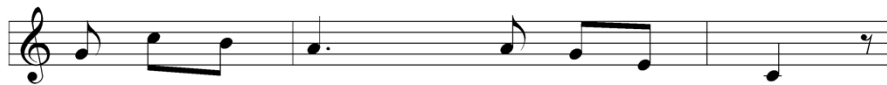
Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,



I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



Oh, wash me in his pre - cious blood,



My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9

The LORD gives Moses a solution which points ahead to Christ.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 32 | CW p.78

Song Leaders will sing the verses; All sing the refrain and the "Glory be ..."

**All - 🎵 Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember, your mercy and love. 🎵**

Song Leaders - Blessed is he whose transgressions are for'given,*
Whose sins are 'covered.

When I kept silent, your hand was heavy up'on me;*
My strength was sapped as in the heat of 'summer.

Then I acknowledged my 'sin to you*
And did not cover up my in'iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions 'to the LORD,"*
And you forgave the guilt 'of my sin.

**All - 🎵 Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember, your mercy and love. 🎵**

Song Leaders - You are my 'hiding place;*
You will protect me from 'trouble.
Many are the woes of the 'wicked,*
But the LORD's unfailing love surrounds
those who 'trust in him..

**All - ♪ Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,*
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**All - ♪ Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember, your mercy and love. ♪**

Typically, the readings come from three different sections of the Bible: the Old Testament, the New Testament letters, and one of the Gospels. This helps us see that God's Word is unified in its message across time and eternity.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

God's mercy, love, and grace have saved us!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR

Lamb of God

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

Believe in the Son and receive eternal life.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for a special message, or they may remain in the pews.

HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved | CW 384

Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-All; 3-Men; 4-Women; 5-All

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



WELS CONNECTION VIDEO

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the love with which you loved us. You did not spare your only-begotten Son, but sent him into the world as the sacrifice for our sin.

C: For his sake, be merciful to us and hear our prayers.

M: Dearest Jesus, give us patience to endure tribulations, strength to resist temptations, joy to overcome sorrows, love to replace bitterness, guidance to keep us on the path of righteousness, boldness to seek your help in prayer, and a will to seek the counsel of your holy Word.

C: For your sake, be gracious to us and bless us.

This video not only provides us with updates on other ministries from around the world; it also reminds us that we are united with so many others in the work of sharing the gospel!

M: Holy Spirit, open our mouths to bear witness to our Savior's name. Open our hearts to give generously to the cause of Christian missions and ministries. Let the joy of our salvation in Christ fill our hearts and our minds until that day we rejoice to meet him in glory.

C: For his sake, compel us to live in love for you and others.

M: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, our God of mercy, grace, and love, we commend to your care all who are afflicted, all who need your help and encouragement, and all who yearn for your healing. *(We pray especially for...)*

Special prayers and intercessions

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Triune God, for all the gifts you give us, we thank and praise you. Keep us in the true faith now and always, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN

By Your Grace

Song Leaders sing verses. All sing chorus.

Song Leaders - It's not what I've done, but by Your blood.

It's not by my worth, but by Your love.

It's not what I've said, or think is enough,

But by your grace I stand in Your love.

Song Leaders - It's not by my hand, but Your sacrifice,

That I'm redeemed, and given new life.

It's not by my strength, but by Your grace,

That I'm redeemed, forgiven and saved.



Song Leaders - It's not by my work or good that I've done,
For I cannot be perfect enough,
So You shed your blood through Your sacrifice
And paid for my sins, so I'd have new life.

Song Leaders - For it's by your gift I am washed clean
By grace through faith, in You I'm redeemed.
It's not by my strength, but Your grace,
That I'm redeemed, forgiven and saved.

**All - Holy, Holy, God Almighty, we praise Your name.
Savior through Your gift of faith we're saved by Your grace, by Your grace.**

Song Leaders - By Your Grace
through Your gift of faith,
By Your Grace, I am Saved.

**All - Holy, Holy, God Almighty, we praise Your name.
Savior through Your gift of faith we're saved by Your grace, by Your grace.**

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: **O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: 🎵 Amen. Amen. Amen. 🎵

Be seated.

Numbers 6:24-26 gives us the words of this familiar blessing, meaning that these words have been heard by Christians for over 3,500 years.

CLOSING HYMN

*Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults | CW 398
Verse 1-Song Leaders; 2-All; 3-Men; 5-Women; 6-All*



It is by
grace
you have
been saved!

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Agree or disagree and explain: Based on Ephesians 2:8-10, we can see that good works are not necessary for a Christian.
2. John 3:16 is often called “the gospel in a nutshell.” Still, looking at just that verse, how does the law also work through those words?
3. In what ways are we, as Christians, the same as the Israelites in Numbers 21:4-9? In what ways is that account different than what we experience?
4. Grace, mercy, and love are all used fairly interchangeably to describe God and his attitude toward us. Look up (in a secular or theological dictionary) these different terms. What is the same about them? What, if anything, is different about each of them?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

The Theology of the Cross

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



JOIN THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 6:45-7:45 AM

The Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study will begin a study of the book of Judges beginning Tuesday March 15th. This would be an excellent time to join the group. They gather at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop between 6:45 AM and 7:00 AM and end by 7:45 AM. For more information, contact Mike Anderson at 715-423-5922 or email 5JAnderson@charter.net.

CHICKEN LASAGNA THIS WEEK

March 17 | 4:45-6:00 PM

The Tuesday Men's Bible Study and the Women Walking in the Word group are joining forces to serve this week's Lenten Fellowship Meal. Chicken Lasagna with salad and garlic bread will be served. The meal is served from 4:45-6:00 PM on Wednesday. Join us for supper!

NLHS SOCK DRIVE

The National Honor Society at Northland Lutheran High School (NLHS) wraps up their Sock Drive this Sunday. The socks will be distributed through the Wausau Warming House and the Wausau Dime & Dollar.

UPDATE ON ST. PAUL'S SCRIP

In February, users of St. Paul's scrip earned a total of \$170.45 toward their tuition. Others opted to give their earning to the general operating fund for the school. This totaled \$479.26. If you want to learn more about scrip, you can talk to someone at the scrip table on Sunday mornings or visit stpaulswr.org/scrip.

GIFTS FROM THRIVENT CHOICE

Thank you to all those who used Thrivent Choice this month. We received a total of \$1,113.00 from Thrivent Financial this month. If you own a Thrivent account, ask your representative about the Thrivent Choice program. These gifts come from the company, not from your account, so it is a no cost way to support the ministries at St. Paul's.

YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES ADD UP

St. Paul's received a quarterly disbursement of \$95.78 from the AmazonSmile Foundation. This amount was based on purchases made through the smile.amazon.com website by people who designated St. Paul's as their charity. The AmazonSmile site is the same as the regular Amazon site (same products, prices, login, lists), but you must be on the smile.amazon.com site to have your purchases earn money for the church. To make sign up easier, use the link at the bottom of our giving page (stpaulswr.org/give).

PURCHASE FLOWERS FOR EASTER

You can help with our annual decorating for Easter by purchasing a potted plant, which is then yours to take home and enjoy or to give to a friend or loved one. A list of flowers and plants along with their costs is on display in the Welcome Center. Take an envelope from the display and note what plant you would like. Then place the payment inside the envelope and drop it in the offering slots in the Information Booth. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Klish at 715-421-3607. Orders are due by March 28.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 183

From July 1, 2020 to March 11, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 725,463

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 804,835*

Mortgage balance: \$1,294,710

*An error has been found in the accounting of our expenses. The Leadership Council is meeting on Tuesday to review and determine the best course of action.

Certain hope
FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 4

In person Worship
at 7:00 & 9:30AM

Breakfast served 8:00-9:00AM

Online worship at
stpaulswr.org
or [facebook.com/stpaulswr](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulswr)

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	2:30 PM	Willing Workers in the Dining Room
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	4:00 PM	Midweek Lent Service
	4:45 PM	Lenten Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Midweek Lent Service
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball





www.stpaulswr.org

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