



**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

**10:30 am**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.*

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • [stpaulreading.org](http://stpaulreading.org)

# Third Sunday in Lent: March 8, 2026

## Prelude

## Gathering

### Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C:** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**P:** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C:** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

**P:** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C:** have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain- ing the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disre- garding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Entrance Hymn: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

# Kyrie

# Schubert *Deutsche Messe*



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

# The Word

## Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray.

Oh, that today we would hear God's voice. May we hear your voice today, Lord, as Marie reads to us the scriptures. Let not our hearts be hardened, but open to the word of life.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." 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 complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and

Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: #9 (maroon hymnal)**

“Come, Ring Out Your Joy” (Ps. 95)

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction 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 that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his

life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #102 (green hymnal)**

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her,

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”  
<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”  
<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection and meditation.*

## Hymn of the Day: "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;<br/>I would be your trusted friend.<br/>Come and seek the gift I offer,<br/>come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i></li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;<br/>lonely ways no longer roam.<br/>Come and take the gift I offer,<br/>let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i></li></ol> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

*Please kneel or sit as you are able.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Peace**

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

**C: And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Invitation to Offering**

A: Let us give today trusting that God will give us enough for tomorrow, for the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand (*Psalms 95:7*).

## Offering: Hymn #216 (maroon hymnal) - refrain only

“Give Me a Clean Heart”

### Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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.

## The Meal

### Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to

cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

## Schubert *Deutsche Messe*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



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



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



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

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.\_\_\_\_\_



## **The Lord's Prayer**

P: 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: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*Please be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

## Schubert *Deutsche Messe*



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Those who wish to commune at the communion station in the front of the sanctuary may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn #356 (green hymnal)

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

## **Table Blessing**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**A:** Let us pray.

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.

**C:** Amen.

## **Sending**

### **Announcements for God's Mission in the World**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Blessing**

**P:** Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

**C:** Amen.

## Closing Hymn #73 (maroon hymnal)

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



**MARCH 29**  
**PALM SUNDAY**

10:30 a.m. Worship &  
Palm Procession

**APRIL 2**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7:00 p.m. Worship  
(The Last Supper)

**APRIL 3**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

7:00 p.m. Worship  
(Gathering Around the Cross)

**APRIL 5**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
10:30 a.m. Easter Service  
After worship: Easter Egg Hunt

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## **Announcements**

*Please plan to stay after worship today for a Special Congregation Meeting to vote on the Members of the Nominating Committee.*

Becky Betsch, Holly Ford and Matt Mueller have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, which fulfills the required number of Committee members, per our Constitution. Thanks to those willing to serve on the Nominating Committee, we now have a slate to offer to the congregation for approval.

Though the meeting should only take a few minutes, it is important work and your participation is needed!

*Congregational Lunch March 22:* All are invited to stay after worship on Sunday, March 22nd for food and fellowship. The meal will be provided and all are welcome.

*Buckeye Strings Give a Lenten Concert March 26:* Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 26 as our final Lenten service for the year before Easter. Once again, Buckeye Strings will be performing a concert of hymns for us. We would like to provide a reception to the musicians following the concerns. You can sign up in the narthex if you wish to bring a light refreshment item to share at the reception.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, March 8: 3 Lent**

9 am Adult Christian Education:

Living Purple

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

After Worship:

Special Congregational Meeting

### **Tuesday, March 10**

11 am Bible Study: Living Purple

### **Wednesday, March 11**

6 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

### **Sunday, March 15: 4 Lent**

9 am Adult Christian Education:

Living Purple

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

### **Monday, March 16**

7 pm Council Meeting

### **Tuesday, March 17**

11 am Bible Study: Living Purple

### **Wednesday, March 18**

6 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

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## Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Addy Kruse, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Chet Laine, Livestreamer