

## OFFERING

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

### Offering Prayer

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

## PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy (music on screen)**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrec-

tion, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,  
**A: 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

L: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Communion Music Video  
"Remembrance" by Matt Maher

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

### BLESSING

L: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and, ✚ give you peace.

**A: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN- "Lamb of God" ELW 336 (vs. 1&3)

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**A: Thanks be to God!**

Licensing information for this Worship Service:

CCLI Copyright License A 2440181 5/31/23 + Streaming Plus License A 211196712 5/31/24Sundays and Seasons License Sundays and Seasons v.20200325.1254

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

**Worship Steward:** John Mehlberg

**Greeters:** Mark Mackinson

**Ushers:** Carl & Gail Thorson

**Lector:** Becky Edinger

**Communion Prep:** Marian Brown

**Comm. Asst:** Mark Mackinson & Doug Oliver

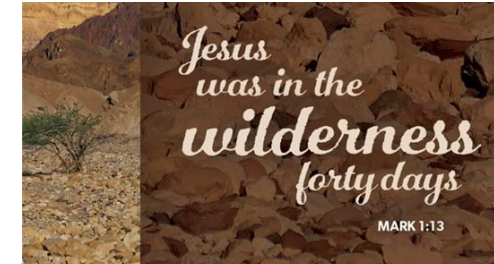
**Hospitality:** Tammy & Doug Oliver & Connie McKinsey

**Musician:** Julie Mehlberg

**SS Teacher:** Michelle Harms

**Counters:** Cody Leach & Jake Dixon

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**February 18, 2024**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Introduction:** 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.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please consider sponsoring the Altar Flowers*

## GATHERING HYMNS

"Take, Oh Take Me as I Am" (Words on Screen) Sing 3 times

"Change My Heart, O God" ELW 801

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**A: Amen.**

L: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Holy God,

**A: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. 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.**

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## GREETING

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

**A: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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. **A: Amen**

## Children’s Message—*Dismissal to Children’s Chapel*

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### First Reading- Genesis 9:8-17

L: A reading from Genesis

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and 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. <sup>11</sup>I 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.” <sup>12</sup>God 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: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>When 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.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life

A: **Thanks be to God**

#### Psalm 25:1-10

A reading from Psalm

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies**

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

A: **Thanks be to God**

#### Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:18-22

L: A reading from 1 Peter

<sup>18</sup>Christ 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey,

when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Ancient Words”

(Words on Screen)

#### Gospel - Mark 1:9-15

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

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

[<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Sermon

Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

#### HYMN OF THE DAY “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

#### APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**A: 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.**

#### Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

L: The following people have been elected by the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran, Pontiac, IL to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

**President:** Tami Putnam, **Vice-President:** Louis Kehinde, **Secretary:** Blayne Dixon, **Building & Community:** Sara Gshwendtner, **Lifelong Learning:** Betsy Westergreen, **Finance & Stewardship:** Cody Leach, **Auditors:** Troy Harms, Carrie Lueker & Carl Thorson; **Central Southern Synod Delegates:** Joel & Emma Rapp, **NE Conference Delegates:** Louis & Lucy Kehinde

L: A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faithful active love, fostering peace, harmony and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sister and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*Please stand as you are able (Those being installed face the assembly)*

L: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**A: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*(Those being installed face the presiding minister)*

L: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

A: **Amen**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end “Hear Us, O God” and the congregation will respond “Your mercy is great”

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

*(After the greeting of peace, the newly installed leaders return to their places.)*