



*Give us water
to drink*

Exodus 17:2

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Prelude

Gathering Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates ..." **G Hymn #250**

Announcement

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*The Apostolic Greeting Page 57

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Hymn of Praise Page 58

*The Prayer of the Day Insert

Anthem Choir

First Lesson Exodus 17:1-7

The Psalm Psalm 95:1-9

Second Lesson Romans 5:1-8

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*The Gospel Lesson John 4:5-30, 39-42

Children's Sermon

*Sermon Hymn "O, Jesus,..." Vs 1-3 **G Hymn #356**

Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn

Sermon Hymn "O, Jesus, ..." Vs 4-5 **G Hymn #356**

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Offering

Offertory Psalm "Create in me.." Page 75

*Prayers/Lord's Prayer Page 76

*Benediction

Closing Hymn "Guide Me Ever..." **G Hymn # 343**

Postlude

*Stand as you are able

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jim & Ruth Crabaugh in honor of March birthday's and anniversaries.

Church Council will meet after worship today.

If you would like to donate candy or small items such as pencils, erasers, stickers etc. for the children's Easter treat bag and egg hunt, there will be baskets on each coat rack. Thank you.

Today is the last day to order Easter flowers. Extra forms are in both entrances. Give them to Bev or Amber Robertson, Mark or Doug Ebbeskotte.

Cemetery Clean up will be March 28. Please remove anything you want saved before that date, also do not put any new items on until after the March 28.

God Squad will be frosting cookies with the residents of Carlisle on March 15, at 2 PM. All are invited to help and visit with the residents.

If anyone wants for reimbursed for providing food for the Lenten Meals, see Susie Sutherland.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry March 1, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	200.00
Current	2,734.00
Feed Crawford County	95.00
Filling Home	50.00
God Squad	25.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	60.00
Missionary	10.00
NALC Seminary	85.00
NALC Disaster Relief	65.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	40.00
Special Projects	1,080.00
Total	\$4,464.00
Attendance 101 Communion 85	
Lent Service 2/25 57	\$541.00

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon**. If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
 Church Council after worship

Monday Dartball home with Shelby Awake 7:30 PM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM
 Lenten Meal 6 PM
 Lenten Worship 7 PM

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
 Cookies at Carlisle 2 PM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgerton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
David Halsey, Lay Assistant
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaulslutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Well, Well, Well

Much of Israel is a desert, so water is crucial there. Jesus used His surroundings in His life-giving teaching. The Bible refers to *water*, *washing*, and *wells* hundreds of times, so clearly, water is important. Nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface is water; about 60 percent of our bodies are made up of water. We cannot live without ordinary water. Physically, it is of utmost importance to us.

Even more important to us is *living* water, available only through Jesus. It is no accident that God uses water to bring His Spirit into our hearts through Baptism. Without water, we die physically. Without God's spiritual water, we die forever. "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again" (John 4:13–14). Christ promises to be and to give us our very life! What joy and hope this gives us!

Lord, we thank You for Your living water. Refresh us with it daily and keep Your Spirit alive in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: The parched-desert complaints of the Israelites were coupled with their desire to strike Moses with stones. However, the Lord had Moses strike a rock to provide the Israelites with water during their journey. Jesus, the rock of our salvation, was struck on His way to die on the cross for us. It was through His death on the cross that He poured out the waters of eternal life and won forgiveness for us. His water quenches our thirsty souls with God's abundant life and sustains us on this side of heaven and into eternal life.



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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, consider the worthy desires of your humble servants. Reach out to defend us from evil by the word and work of your majestic right hand. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

¹All 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. ²Therefore 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And 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. ⁶Behold, 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. ⁷And 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?"

Psalm 95:1-9

- ¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the Rock of | our salvation.
- ²**Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving***
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.
- ³For the LORD | is a great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
- ⁴**In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,***
and the heights of the hills | are his also.
- ⁵The sea is his, | for he made it,*
and his hands have molded | the dry land.
- ⁶**Come, let us bow down, and | bend the knee,***
and kneel before the | LORD our Maker.
- ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep | of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken | to his voice!
- ⁸**Harden not your hearts,**
as your forebears did | in the wilderness,*
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they | tempted me.
- ⁹They put me | to the test,*
though they had | seen my works.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through 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. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and 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. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Gospel: John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]

⁵So {Jesus} came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." [27]Just then his

disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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 indeed the Savior of the world."]

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 42:14-21; Psalm 142;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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For Strength and Faithfulness in Serving

Mighty God, strengthen us as brothers and sisters in your church, so that we may joyfully obey your will. Strengthen and bless those who preach, teach, and shepherd congregations. Keep them faithful to your Word so that they may diligently speak your truth to the flocks to which you have called them to serve. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Lent

Sustaining God, renew us in the gift of Baptism. Throughout this Lenten journey may your promise of new life in Christ move us to repentance and transformation. Cleanse our hearts, strengthen our faith, and keep us faithful to the covenant of Baptism. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Peace and Justice

God of righteousness, you call your people to strive for justice and peace in all the world, following the example of our Lord, Jesus. Grant wisdom and compassion to all in authority, that they may govern with justice and equity. Raise up faithful servants who will serve as peacemakers in the places where violence and war is a daily reality, and shape us to be those who bear peace in our ordinary daily interactions. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Wholeness

Heavenly Father; hold in your tender care all those who suffer in any way—physically, emotionally or spiritually. Strengthen and support caregivers and medical professionals that they may act with compassion and minister with technical skill. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.