



*Whoever believes in Me,
though he die,
yet shall he live*

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

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Postlude		
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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 The Krahlings.

Our last Wednesday evening Lenten meal and worship service will be March 25. Meal is at 6 followed by the service.

The Dartball team will be playing their tournament game on Monday, March 23 at Shelby Awake Church.

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 are baskets on each coat rack. Thank you.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council and congregation would like to express our thanks to Ron Zucker for plowing snow and keeping our parking lot clean.

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.

If anyone wants for reimbursed for providing food for the Lenten Meals, see Susie Sutherland. It will be paid by the God Squad account.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry

March 15, 2026

Bell Choir	45.00
Benevolence	220.00
Current	3,589.00
Feed Crawford County	235.00
Filling Home	40.00
God Squad	380.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	15.00
Missionary	25.00
NALC Seminary	95.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	130.00
Special Projects	75.00
Women of the Church	10.00
Total	\$4,859.00
Attendance 94	

Lent Service 3/11 Attendance 56 \$753.00

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
Monday	Dartball Tournament at Shelby Awake Church
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Lenten Meal 6 PM Lenten Worship 7 PM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM

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.

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A Resurrection in Your Future

The writer C. S. Lewis created an imaginary conversation between Stephen, who was stoned to death for his faith, and Lazarus. Stephen tells Lazarus that Lazarus is really the first martyr for having died once and eventually having to do it all over again. Indeed, the Lord would call Lazarus out of the grave and restore him to his sisters. But Lazarus's tomb would not remain vacant. Eventually, he would have to die all over again.

Like Lazarus, we will be raised from our graves by the Word of the Lord over life and death. Unlike Lazarus, when we are raised from the dead, there will be no more death in our future. "In the very midst of life snares of death surround us," we sing in Luther's hymn (*LSB* 755:1). But in the very midst of death, we have Him who is the resurrection and the life. No wonder Christians have cherished Jesus' words as they are read at the side of open graves. These words are a sure and certain promise, for the Lord who emptied Lazarus's grave would, in just a few days, occupy a borrowed tomb. Raised from the dead, He now lives, and so shall we.

Lord Jesus, give me courage and confidence in the face of death, for You have given me the victory by Your death and resurrection. Amen.

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PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



About the Cover: Jesus delivered words of life to Martha in the midst of her brother's death. By His Word, He then raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus gives life in the midst of death because He is the resurrection and the life. Through His death on the cross, He has brought us life by atoning for all of our sins. Although death is still the reality on this side of Jesus' return, our life by faith continues with Him after death, and we will be raised on the Last Day, just as He rose from the dead.



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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look favorably upon your family. Graciously rule our bodies lest we are enticed to love the world, and guard our spirits lest we fail to recognize your love. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O LORD God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the LORD God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Psalms 130* (omitted here due to space constraints)

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 [46-53]

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does

not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” ¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” ²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”
⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, [⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.]

Lessons for Next Week: John 12:12-19; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-29;
 Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1-27:66

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For Obedience and Repentance

Lord God, you rule over all creation, bringing order out of chaos. Thank you for establishing law and order among us, revealing to us your divine will. Help us to hear your Word and obey your commandments. Show us those places in our lives where we fall short of your glory, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us to true repentance and faith. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Lent

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, grant that in this season of Lent we may be drawn to you in humility and sincerity.

Through the transforming work of your Holy Spirit may we abandon all religious pretense and preening, so that we may know the blessing of faithful obedience to your will, taking up our cross to follow you. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Unity of the Church

Blessed Trinity, grant to your church throughout the world the unity and peace that can only come through your abiding presence. Stir us to engage in the work of reconciliation wherever there is discord and enmity among us. Create a climate of harmony and unity in both this congregation and your church universal, that through our faithful witness your reconciling love may be made visible to others. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Hope and Healing

Healer of our every ill, we pray for those who wait in sadness, uncertainty, or despair due to illness, tragedy, or grief. Help us to be your healing presence and bring your promise of hope.

Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.