

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Stillwater, Minnesota
April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday
11:30 AM and 7:00 PM



Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

Today, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We remember Christ's last meal With his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book, and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.



Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Following the invitation into confession, all keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Song

ELW hymn 358

"Great God Your Love Has Called Us Here"

Greeting

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

And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Page 58

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

At the conclusion:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Children's and Outreach Message (7:00 PM)

Jenny Brelje

Gospel Acclamation

Sung twice.

"A New Commandment"

A new com-mand-ment I give un-to you, that you love one an-oth-er as
I have loved you, that you love one an-oth-er as I have loved you.
By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis-ci-ples, if
you have love one for an-oth-er; by this shall peo-ple know
you are my dis-ci-ples: if you have love one for an-oth-er.

Gospel Reading Pew Bible: New Testament Pages 107-108

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

The gospel is introduced:

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Laurel Halvorson Bernard (*morning*)
Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity (*evening*)

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

ELW hymn 462

"Now We Join in Celebration"

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the basket as you come forward for communion. The offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.



At the evening service, we celebrate the First Communion of Olivia Jean Ertle. Olivia was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran on July 29, 2018. Her participation was preceded by a time of learning with both Jenny and Pastor Nathan. Welcome to the Lord's Table, Olivia!

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

(Continued on the next page.)



In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup . . .

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

After each prayer:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

Amen.

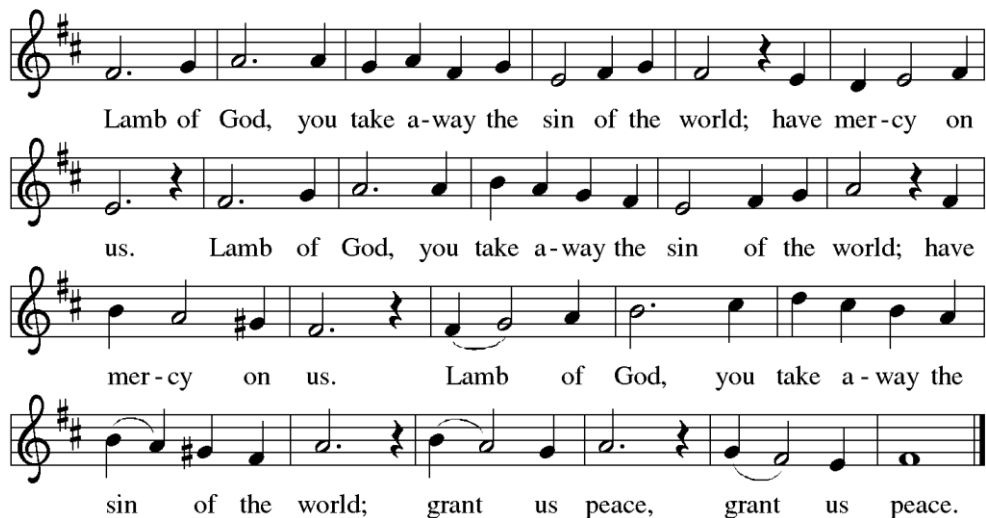
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**





Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond:

Amen.



Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Stripping of the Altar

As we depart, we first pause to strip the chancel of light and symbol. You are invited to rest in a time of prayer and silence, remembering all that God has done in love.

"Give Me Jesus" is sung by a soloist as the chancel furnishings are removed.

We will depart in silence after the chancel is stripped.

Portions of the liturgy, service music, and hymns not otherwise noted below are from sundaysandseasons.com. Reprinted by permission through Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual license number SAS028225. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

For "Great God Your Love Has Called Us Here." © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Contributors: Brian Wren. Text: © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Used with permission. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714175. All rights reserved.

For "Now We Join in Celebration." Contributors: Joel W Lundeen. Text: © 1978, Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission. Reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714175. All rights reserved.