

# **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Holstein, IA

March 8, 2026

9:00 A.M.

## **Third Sunday in Lent**

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word and bath--offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

### **GATHER**

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

In the name of God the Creator, the Savior, and the Spirit - we come to continue our journey of faith.

**We are open and willing. We are looking forward to our journey as God's promises become real to us.**

We are people of a loving God, brought together by love and sent out to show love for the world.

**Loving Creator, build in us a sense of community, a desire for commitment, and a love for others. Amen.**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and each other.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**Our spirits are dry. The well that has supplied our ambition and motivation runs dry. We are tired of trying to do it alone and acknowledge our need for you. We sin and we are sorry, we fail and we need forgiveness, we search for love yet remain lonely. Fountain of life, you know our needs and our shortcomings. Water of life - Spirit of truth - allow us to drink freely from your never ending supply of life.**

Here is the Good News! Jesus has come into the world to shower us with the water of freedom and forgiveness. God has not left us alone, but surrounded us with love through the community of believers and filled us with love through the Holy Spirit. God fills us with the water of life until we overflow to those around us. Jesus has given the true gift of love in his death on the cross and his resurrection. Our spirit has been joined to God's Spirit which fills us and lives through us. Praise God for the water of life.

**Amen!**

**Opening Song**

***Come to the River of Life***

**Chorus:** Come to the river of life, you will find healing here;

Come to the river of life, come and drink freely here.

Come if your heart is searching, come if your soul is thirsty;

Draw near and drink of the mercy of Jesus Christ at the river of life.

There is a river whose streams make glad, the city of God, the city of God;

So, come if you're wounded or sad, there is a river, there is a river.

**Chorus**

It flows from the land of eternal light,

where there's no more sorrow and no more night;

Into the hearts that are lifted to Him, filling his children again and again.

**Chorus**

Moen, 1995 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI #833795

**Prayer of the Day**

**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. Amen.**

**WORD**

**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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 95**

(Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the Lord;

**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving

**and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, Lord, are a great God,

**and a great ruler above all gods.**

<sup>4</sup> In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

**the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,

**and your hands have molded the dry land.**

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us worship and bow down,

**let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

**Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!**

<sup>8</sup> "Harden not your hearts,

**as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,

**they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.**

<sup>10</sup> Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

**'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,

**'They shall never come to my rest.'"**

**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.

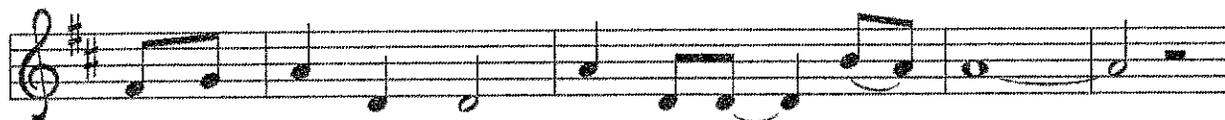
**Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Message

### Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

### John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th chapter. **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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

***Waterlife***

#457

### **Statement of Faith**

**We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present.**

**We believe in God above us, the truth of God, who created all things seen and unseen.**

**We believe in God among us, the Word of God, Immanuel, who was born as Jesus, son of the virgin Mary, who was revealed as the Christ come to redeem all, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, who was crucified, died, and was buried, who on the third day, rose again and ascended into heaven, who will come again to vindicate all creation.**

**We believe in God within us, the Spirit, the breath of God, who gives life to all creation, who works within the people of God, who is present in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Communion, who forgives our sins, who give us eternal life.**

**We believe in one God, the most high, who is in all things, who is infinite in compassion, who is always present. Amen.**

From Behold the Christ, Mark Douglass, ©1993, Dakota Road Music.  
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### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Children's Offering / Offering**

**Musical Offering - *I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger***

### **Offering Prayer**

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. Receive now the fruit of our lives and work of our hands. Use us, and these offerings, to reveal the love of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

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.

### **SENDING**

### Blessing

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.  
Amen.

### Closing Song

**Made for Love**

(see insert)

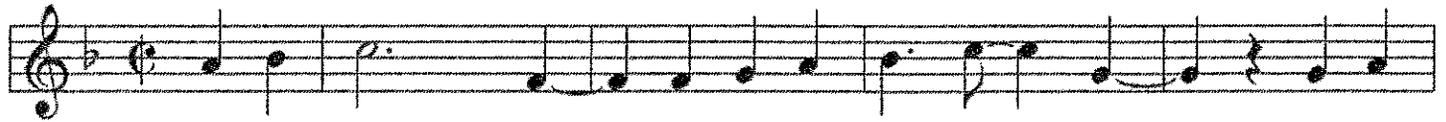
### Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

# MADE FOR LOVE

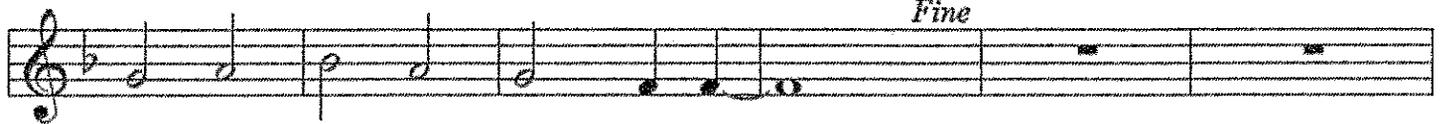
Hans Peterson  
Larry Olson  
Mary Olson



We've been mold - ed by the Cre - a - tor's hand. Here in



Je - sus we have grace to stand. Moving by the



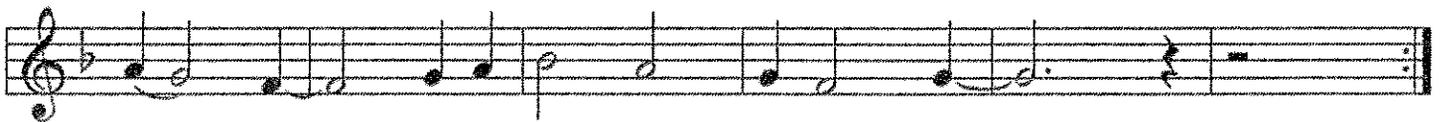
Spir - it, we are made for love.



Sun and star - light, spark - ling wa - ters, morn - ing  
In the wa - ter's ho - ly bless - ing, Spir - it  
Live out jus - tice, treas - ure kind - ness, jour - ney



birds that ser - e - nade, in the i - mage of the  
com - ing like a dove, we're a wit - ness to the  
hum - bly ev - 'ry - day. We are called here in - to



Mak - er we are won - der - ful - ly made.  
won - der, we are loved and so we love.  
ser - vice, a for - giv - ing, lov - ing way.

## **Worship Participants**

<b>Ministers:</b>	All the members
<b>Vicar:</b>	Emily Anderson
<b>DYME:</b>	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Organist:</b>	Sharen Borchers
<b>Pianist:</b>	Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Lector:</b>	Jennifer Glawe
<b>Deacons:</b>	Reuben De La O and Justin Georg
<b>Greeter:</b>	Susan Endrulat
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Gabe VanHouten and Kaleb VanHouten
<b>Special Music:</b>	Sounds of Celebration bell choir
<b>Sound &amp; Video:</b>	Kelby Wulf and Tyler Gebers
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Liz & Dave Kistenmacher Hillary & John Walsh

## **St. Paul Church Calendar**

### **SUNDAY, March 8 ~ Third Sunday in Lent**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship

### **WEDNESDAY, March 11**

	<i>NO LOGOS</i>
<b>6:15 PM</b>	Lent Supper
<b>7:00 PM</b>	Lenten Evening Prayer Service

### **THURSDAY, March 12**

<b>2:00 PM</b>	"12 Women of the Bible" - Women's Bible Study
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Parish Education Meeting

### **SUNDAY, March 15 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship
<b>1:00 PM</b>	St. Paul Wellness Day at the Cherokee Fitness Center sponsored by Parish Ed

