



*Jesus answered,
“Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water
and the Spirit, he cannot enter
the kingdom of God.*

John 3:5

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The Gospel in a nutshell (John 3:16). That’s what we know this verse from St. John’s Gospel as. It is, in many respects, the simplest and clearest expression of who Jesus is and what He came to earth to do. Quite simply, Jesus came to save the world. Save the world from what? Save the world from itself, from Satan, and, most obviously, He came to save the world from death. We praise God for the opportunity to worship this morning!

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US. Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Bell Choir "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

Baptismal Hymn 592 "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

Holy Baptism of Martin Ray Nielsen

Pages 268-271 in the hymnal

Hymn 708 "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

Adult Choir "O Lord, My God, I Cry to Thee"

1. O Lord, my God, I cry to Thee,
In my distress Thou helpst me.
My soul and body I commend
Into Thy hands; Thine angel send
To guide me home and cheer my heart
When Thou dost call me to depart.
2. O Jesus Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
Once slain to take away our load,
Now let Thy cross, Thine agony
Avail to save and solace me.
Thy death to open heav'n and there
Bid me the joy of angels share.
3. O Holy Spirit, at the end,
Sweet Comforter, be Thou my friend.
When death and hell assail me sore,
Leave me, oh, leave me nevermore,
But bear me safely through the strife,
As Thou hast promised, into life.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: v.8

P He remembers His covenant forever,
C **the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

P Seek the LORD and His strength;
C **seek His presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
C **His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,**

P O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
C **children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

P He is the LORD our God;
C **His judgments are in all the earth.**

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P He remembers His covenant forever,
C **the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt

the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1–9

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does

the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:1–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, We speak of what We know, and bear witness to what We have seen, but you do not receive Our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

Sermon Text

John 3:1-17

Sermon "This Is the Way"

1. God conquered death _____ and a

_____ .

2. Now God is conquering death _____ .

This Is the Way God Loved the World.

3. Thus, the suffering and death we endure will not _____

_____ .

Hymn 542 "When I Behold Jesus Christ"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

☩ 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.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



☩ A - men.

Closing Hymn 422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 A.M.. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4.19, 5/3, 5/17, 5/31, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Join Us ~ Women of St. Paul's please join us on Saturday at 11:00 am in the Jerusalem room. We will begin with prayer and then read GOD's Word together as a community. You will never be asked to do anything you are not comfortable doing. Just show up, be with the other women, and listen. For more information contact Kelly Sienicki.

The Hospitality Committee needs your help! On March 8th this group will be creating the next round of dinners for our shut-ins of the church and community. They need cans of fruit (your choice), potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, and breadcrumbs. There is a table in the narthex for these items labeled Hospitality Committee. If you would like to help prepare the meals, please call Sandy Schooler or Beth Ender. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

We will be having a special Voters' Meeting immediately following the service on March 19, 2023, for the sole purpose of formally placing a call for Jamie Rogers. Jamie has been a member of St. Paul's and a contract teacher for our 4th and 5th grade classroom since 2020. She has recently completed her Colloquy. After the call has been completed, a date will be set to have her formal installation as a Called Lutheran School Teacher during a regular church service. Participation by all voting members of St. Paul's is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

1st Thursday Bible Study will resume on May 4th at 6:00 pm with a study on Jesus' parables. All are welcome.

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

That we, though knowing we will die, yet believe God saves the world by way of Jesus' death.

For the baptism of Martin Ray Nielsen. May he ever remember and live in his baptismal grace.

For Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For our country and her leaders.

For the Lord's guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. May the Lord comfort them with His grace and healing.

That Jesus would shine in the hearts of all Christians throughout the world who face the struggles of war and persecution as they stand up for their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

The 2023 Plymouth Legacy of Life Banquet will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at the Christos Banquet Center in Plymouth. Keynote speaker will be Mike Fichter, CEO of Indiana Right to Life. Mike is an outstanding speaker and strong proponent of the pro-life cause. Jim and Linda Tinkey will host a table for St. Paul's members and would love to have you join them. Tickets are \$ 25 payable to RTL of NCI. Doors open at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. See Jim or Linda to reserve a spot at their table or for any further details.

The school students will once again be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts as a fundraiser for the PTL. You can see any student to place an order. The doughnuts are \$13.00 per dozen this year. The deadline to place an order is March 8th. We will pick up the doughnuts and have them available to be picked up on either Friday March 24th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or on Sunday March 26th after church. You may also contact Eric Thornton to place an order or schedule a pick-up time.

St. Paul's EGG-CITING EASTER PARTY! – Children (ages Pre-K–Grade 3), enjoy a morning of Easter fun and activities on Saturday, March 25, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.! Bring along a basket for the Easter Egg Hunt and meet in the gymnasium.

The Bd. of Christian Education would appreciate donations of “mini” candies to help fill over 1000 eggs for Easter Egg Hunt. Please place candy contributions in designated box in the church Narthex. THANK YOU!

Calendar of Events

TODAY:..... **March 5, 2023**

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

Scrip Day

7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church

Adult Basketball..... 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal5:00 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal.....6:00 pm

MON:

PTL-Jerusalem Room 6:30 pm

TUES:

Youth Group-Blessings in a Bag Event 6:00 pm

WED:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am

Day School Chapel 8:05 am

Lenten Meal-Taco Bar6:00 pm

Lenten Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

THURS:

Ladies Bible Study..... 9:30 am

Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

FRI:

SAT:

Women and God's Word Bible Study 11:00 am-12:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: **March 12, 2023**

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service with communion..... 9:30 am

7th Grade PUBLIC School Confirmation After Church

Bell Choir Rehearsal5:00 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal.....6:00 pm

YOUTH NEWS

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK: On March 7th @6:30 pm, St. Paul's Youth in Grades 6 through High School have an opportunity to serve the Bremen community through the Blessings in the Backpack program. We will be assembling bags with various food items to be handed out at a later date by this organization. If interested in attending, **we ask that Youth sign up on the Youth bulletin board in the church hallway by today (March 5th)**. Questions should be directed to Andy Wildauer, who will provide additional information to attendees.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK IN: It is that time of year again for our annual Lock In on March 10th-11th from 7 pm to 7 am. Youth in Grades 6-8 are invited to attend and take part in various activities, Christian fellowship throughout the night and early morning hours, and devotion. The Youth Board will provide all of the food and plan some activities while the Youth will also have plenty of free time throughout the night. So we can properly prepare, **Youth must sign up on the Youth bulletin board in the church hallway by today (March 5th).** We look forward to seeing everyone there.

SCHOOL CORNER

St. Paul's Lutheran is now a Choice School, starting with the 2023-24 school year! This means that we can provide our students with Choice Scholarships, and help make the Christian education they receive here more affordable. We are hard at work preparing for the changes this brings, but we are excited and hope this helps promote growth in the school. Thank you for your support!

Speaking of growth, the Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up is on March 21st, 5:00-7:00pm. If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education, please encourage them to contact us and attend the Round-Up. YOU are our best advertisements!

We are planning the spring musical already! If you can help with props, scenery, sound, or especially recording, please let me know. Rehearsals for the students start in March.

Thank you for your generosity in giving back to our teachers and taking ornaments from the Teacher Giving Trees! They have been very excited to receive their "gifts"! If you would still have items to donate, please bring them to the school office.

Please remember giving to the SGO!

We have provided SGO scholarships for 33 students this school year, thanks to your generous donations. This has not only helped with their tuition this year, but gives them the ability to qualify for a Choice scholarship for 2023-24. As Kindergarteners cannot apply for Choice, we will be using SGO scholarships to assist with tuition and qualify them for Choice for the following years. **Please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check,

IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.