



*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
Bremen, Indiana 46506
574.546.2332
stpaulsbremen.church*

The 4th Sunday in LentMarch 10th, 2024

Last week the lectionary gave us one of the most famous readings in all Scripture: the Ten Commandments. This week, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the lectionary tops that: Ephesians 2:8–9 and John 3:16! So much to say. So much already said. So familiar. Let us listen closely.

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. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

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 the narthex of the church.

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, located just outside the sanctuary.

Our prayer is that the words of John 3:16 never lose their impact. In that one singular verse, our Lord tells us of the depth of the Father's love for the world that He created that He would willingly offer His Son as a substitute for all so that everyone who believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. This message is for those who are hurting and broken, those who are in prisons of their own making, those who have the world on a string and those who have nothing in this world at all. God's love is for all. Jesus died for all. We pray that no matter how many times we read those actual words that the Holy Spirit would assure us that those words of Good News are for each of us. May the Holy Spirit move us to be an army of witnesses, not holding John 3:16 signs, but bearing witness to Christ in our words and deeds in our communities and to all who are lost and need to know that God's love is for them also.

~ Pastor Lee Hagan – President Missouri District, LCMS ~

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

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

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 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Choral arrangement of Hymn 425

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 27:3-5; antiphon: v. 1

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

C though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

P One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

P For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;

C He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

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 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

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.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:14–21

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



- C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁴Jesus said: "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. ¹⁸Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is

condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 588 "Jesus Loves Me"

Sermon Text

John 3:14-21

Sermon "Genuine Love"

- 1. Genuine love becomes tangible _____ .
- 2. The ultimate genuine love was Jesus' action of dying on _____
_____ .
- 3. Though we don't deserve it, this love of God is
_____ .

Jesus Put His Genuine Love into Action for You by Dying on the Cross for Your Sins.

Hymn 700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Prayers

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

(Colossians 3:1)



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Psalm 136)



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father,

everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) *LSB 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

C **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.**

Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God (John 1:29)

LSB 163



C 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.

Hymn 627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

Hymn 620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Hymn 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

Hymn 624 "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



Closing Hymn 543 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Anyone wishing to donate for lilies to adorn the chancel on Easter may give their gift to Mel Schutz or any attendant. Thank you.

Parish Fellowship will meet next Sunday following the Service.

2nd Thursday Bible Study will resume this Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 pm. Please plan to join us in the Bethany Room as we continue to study the parables of Jesus. Next up: "The Parable of the Sower".

Welcome Bags will be delivered in Bremen tomorrow, March 11. We will meet at church at 4:30 to pack the bags and receive our addresses. The Evangelism Board needs your help packing and delivering said bags!! This is a great way to meet new neighbors and will not take your whole evening. Please pray for the group going out and the neighbors receiving bags that God bless all involved!

Calendar of Events

TODAY March 10th, 2024

Breakfast Potluck 8:00 am
 Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am
 Adult Basketball..... 2:00-4:00 pm
 Bell Choir Practice 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice 6:00 pm

MON:

Pack & Deliver Evangelism Bags 4:30 pm

TUES:

WED:

Make Hospitality Meals 9:00 am
 Day School Chapel 11:00 am
 Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 pm
 Lenten Worship Service..... 7:00 pm

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am
 Preschool Chapel 9:30 am
 PreK/Kindergarten Round-up 5:00-7:00 pm
 8th Grade Public School Confirmation 5:00 pm
 2nd Thursday Bible Study 6:00 pm
 New Member Class 2.0..... 7:00 pm

FRI:

Lego Club..... 3:00 pm
 Euchre 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY March 17th, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
 Worship Service..... 9:30 am
 Parish Fellowship Meeting..... After Worship Service
 Adult Basketball..... 2:00-4:00 pm
 Bell Choir Practice 5:00 pm
 Adult Choir Practice 6:00 pm

New April-June Portals of Prayer and Hope-full Living magazines are now in the tract rack in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one.

Bourbon Right to Life Banquet - This year the spring Right to Life banquet for Marshall County will be held at the Cornerstone @ Cedar Banquet Hall located at 9519 Cedar, Bourbon on Tuesday, April 30th. Doors open at 6 pm and dinner is 6:30 pm. Speaker will be Monica Kelsey, Founder of Safe Haven Baby Box. Tickets are \$ 25 each. Jim and Linda Tinkey are hosting a table and if you are interested please let them know. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the battle we face to support human life and show your support for the pro-life initiatives in North Central Indiana.

The Hospitality Crew is busy preparing their next meal on this Wednesday, March 13th. This month we are doing a variety of pasta casseroles like chicken alfredo or spaghetti with meat and sauce, etc. We are in need of the following donations: boxed pasta, pasta sauce, alfredo sauce, broccoli, cauliflower, parmesan cheese, and packages of a pound or so, of hamburger, sausage, chicken, and smoked sausage. Also, we would like to have donations of baked goods or special treats to add to the meal. Donations can also be brought to the church on Monday or Tuesday mornings. Any and all donations are a blessing and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please see Sandie Schooler or Beth Enders. Thank you for the support you continue to give us.

Egg-Citing News! The Board of Christian Education will be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 9:00-10:30 am. There will be a devotion, singing, a craft, refreshments, and of course, the Easter Egg Hunt. All children from age 2 through Grade 3 are invited to attend. We are asking for **donations of prewrapped “mini” candies and 2” diameter plastic eggs to help fill over 1000 eggs.** There is a designated box in the Narthex for the candy and eggs. Thank you for your help. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Ukrainian Eggs! If you are interested in making Ukrainian eggs, please contact Ellen Tjernagel. It is scheduled for March 21st, in the daytime and is located in Bremen.

We are beginning our food ingathering or Grace Food Pantry today, Sunday, March 10th. Cards have been placed on a table in the Narthex with specific items that the food pantry has requested at this time. If you feel so led, please take a card, or a few, and purchase the items listed. All purchased items should be returned to this same table by Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

To my St. Paul's family... I sincerely thank you for your prayers, support and cards during my recent hospital stays and recovery. God bless you as you have been a great blessing to me!
He is our strength! Tom Coxey

Groovy, Man!

The **musical this year** will be a 70s game show- "Tell Me the Truth". If you have any 60-70s era small appliances, like a hair dryer, rotary phone, veg-o-matic, etc., please contact Jennifer Harman. We specifically are also looking for a transistor radio, lava lamp, and any vintage clothing you may have!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the set, props, or costumes, please contact Jennifer Harman as well.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The "Every Word of Bremen" organization is looking for volunteers to read the Bible to the Bremen community in early June. To begin planning, the window to volunteer opens soon. If interested in learning more, please speak with Avery Wildauer (Bremen HS student advocate) or Pastor Wonnacott. Additional details below:

"Join us at the pavilion in downtown Bremen as we publicly read the Bible together from Genesis to Revelation"

Dates: June 3-7, 2024

Times: 7:00 am - 10:00 pm

Website: bibleforbremen.us

YOUTH NEWS

Middle School (6th-8th Grades) Youth Lock In: The annual Middle School Lock In is now scheduled for April 12th-13th (7 pm-7 am). Youth are encouraged to join us for various activities, food, fellowship, and more. Those planning to attend **must sign up on the Youth bulletin board before Spring Break begins on March 29th**. St. Paul's Youth are welcome to invite friends, but please confirm with the Youth Board first. Parents of all attendees must sign a waiver that will be available at drop off. Please direct any questions to Andy Wildauer.

Youth Service Events: The Youth Board is busy planning opportunities for our Youth to serve in various ways in our local communities. Stay tuned for more information on scheduling as we look to give back to those around us.

Youth Group Communication Channel: As a parent, you can be added to our GroupMe text chat for the St. Paul's Youth Group (Grades 4 through High School) to be kept up to date on upcoming activities, service events, quick communications, etc. If interested, please contact Andy Wildauer.

SCHOOL CORNER

Congratulations to Abby Wildauer for placing 5th at the Valpo Lutheran Middle School Math Contest last Tuesday! Abby competed with students from eight other Lutheran schools, along with nine of her school mates. Thank you, students, for representing St. Paul's!

Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up is this Thursday, March 14 th , 5:00-7:00pm. Students and parents can meet teachers, visit classrooms, and enjoy some fun activities! Please invite anyone who is interested in Preschool and/or Kindergarten to check out St. Paul's!

St. Paul's Preschool and Day School is now enrolling for 2024-25! Our mission is to provide a solid education, with a Christian foundation and atmosphere for Preschool through 8th Grade. We also offer a comprehensive scholarship program. Online enrollment and inquiries are open on our website, stpaulsbremen.church/school. Interested families can also call the school, 574-546-2790, or email schools@stpaulsbremen.org. We are happy to answer questions and schedule tours. **Please advertise for us; word-of-mouth is our best advertisement!**

Also, catch our advertisements on Pulse FM (96.9), and an interview during the lunch hour **on March 12th !**

Our Fourth and Fifth Grade Classes are highlighted on the narthex bulletin board!

A new year of donating to the Lutheran SGO is underway! Our goal is to make a Christian education affordable, so please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down menu.**

You can also 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. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

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

The Gray Glove Part 3: It was a dark and stormy night...no, wait, that's another story for another time. It has been dark and lonely in secretary's mailbox so the gray glove has moved to a more prominent location outside the secretary's office. Please, have some humanity and help it be reunited with its mate!

Servants for Today's Worship March 10th, 2024

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Larry Winterboer & Tyler Schmeltz

Acolyte: Abby Wildauer

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship March 17th, 2024

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Paul Wonnacott & Curt Nielsen

Acolyte: Kamden & Kellan Guse

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt