



3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 20, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

How then shall we live? What a profound question for Christians to consider, especially during Lent! The Lord has shown His mercy to us, forgiven our sins, and delivered us from death. Then what? The call of the Readings for this Sunday points us to the repentance that bears the good fruit of God's kingdom. Like trees that have failed to produce good fruit, the Lord has tended us with His Word, with the warning of the Law and the promise of the Gospel. But if the tree remains unfruitful, it will have to be cut down. It is a hard word to hear, but God remains merciful, and most of all, He longs for us to bear the good fruits of faith and repentance in our daily lives.

Prelude

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

P. Manz

Opening Hymn

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

#704

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face. | 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire. |
| 2 Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still. | 4 Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace. |

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August

Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 1:6; 5:4, 7, adapt.

P The LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C but the way of the wicked will perish.

P You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.

C Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your house.

We pause in silence to remember our sins before our merciful God...

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of all people, we poor sinners confess to You that we have turned away from You. We have not done the good You desire but have done the evil You forbid. We repent of all our sins of thought, word, and deed and pray for Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Turn our hearts away from sin and its temptation and grant us by the Holy Spirit to serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. 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.

To the impenitent and unbelieving I must declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 5:4-8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

C For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

P The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

C You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

P But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.

C I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

P Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;

C make your way straight before me.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Announcement of the Day

Old Testament Reading

✠ Ezekiel Is Israel's Watchman ✠

Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.

Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Celebration Ringers

“O, How I Love Jesus”

S. Rogers

Epistle

✠ Warning Against Idolatry ✠

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

2 Peter 3:9b, c

[The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Holy Gospel

✠ Repent or Perish ✠

Luke 13:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." ⁶And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

**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.**

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Sermon Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#809

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they
fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

**ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

2 Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and
love. **Refrain**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside! **Refrain**

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SERVICE of the SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
P Giving thanks for all that You have accomplished for our salvation, we pray You to keep in our remembrance Your holy Word and to teach our hearts to desire Your goodness in all our thinking, speaking, and doing, that in this life we show forth the good works of Him who has called us from darkness into Your marvelous light, and in the life to come may praise Your glory without end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

“God Loves Me Dearly”

#392

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. **Refrain**

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. **Refrain**

ref Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. **Refrain**

2 I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. **Refrain**

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. **Refrain**

*Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
Text: Public domain*

Hymn

“Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”

#573

1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.

2 It was grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee;

△ 3 Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

*Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt.
Text: Public domain*

Communion Blessing

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil ways and live. Graciously spare us those punishments that we by our sins have deserved, and grant us always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; through

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

C Amen.

Benediction

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.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

#722

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.
2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.
3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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Postlude

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

K. Haase



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Bill Leise

Celebration Ringers Director: Martha Moeller

Lector: Betty Shamasko

Altar Care: Denise Murray

Altar Flowers: With thanksgiving for the Baptism of Patrick Brian Buckley

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Luther South Classmates and anyone who is interested in owning a piece of Luther South History!!

The web site is up and running!!



www.lhssmemories.org

The Luther South Artifact Committee was fortunate enough to secure just over 1,000 bricks from Luther High School. Most of these bricks are from the Science wing.

We feel that alumni may wish to purchase a brick for a reminder of where they spent their formative years of their lives. The Luther South Artifact Committee was also fortunate enough to secure the Cross, the two cornerstones and the Luther South letters from the school. The funds we raise from selling these bricks will go toward a permanent memorial of the cross, the letters and cornerstones at Bethania Cemetery. **The cost of a brick is \$10 plus shipping.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Dietrich at:

anndietrich3@yahoo.com or 708-509-8293.

Thank You!

Keith Vanselow-708-602-9156 kvanselow@sbcglobal.net

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Gleason
Dawn McNicholas	Janet Varnagis
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Julie & Larry Gurga
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patrick Buckley	Sue Lilja

We also include today

*Pam Kirk's former pastor, rev. Mark Willig,
Pam's mother, Theresa Kostecki,
Sandy Plath's 2 daughters, Vicki Warren and Jenny Bond.*

We give thanks with Natalie & Tim Buckley as their son Patrick will be baptized after today's service.

Announcements & Notes:

- *The Adult Choir's first rehearsal is Wed., Apr. 6th at 8pm following the Lenten service and again on Wed., Apr. 13th at 7pm. Talk to RUTH SIEVERS. All are welcome, so please come!*
- *If you are interested in playing with our Handbell choir, see Martha Moeller.*
- *Join us for our midweek Lenten service and supper on Wed. Mar. 23rd. Evangelism / Parish Ed will serve Sloppy Joes, Chips, and desserts 5:30 – 6:30.*
- *ESPECIALLY if you're a Luther South Alumnus, be sure to see the inside back cover of your worship folder.*
- *Portals of Prayer for the next quarter are in the narthex and wings.*
- *Orders for Easter flowers are due by April 4th.*

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Eric Kessling	Barb & Emily Feehan
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Shirley Fairchild	Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer	Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Judy Collins	Phyllis Hicks
Maryann Krieg (Wilke)	Katherine Zeleny
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Joe Kelley	Debbie Guarascio
Justin & Ashley Fasel	Frank Coglinase
Nora Maculitis	Gene Wawrzynikowski
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Brian Anderson
Robert Gonzalez	Theresa Kostecki
Pam Kirk	

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.