



# St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

*Located in the ♥ of Royal Oak since 1873  
202 E Fifth St. Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248)541-0613  
[stpaulroyaloak.org](http://stpaulroyaloak.org)*

**March 11, 2026**

**Lent 4**

**7PM**

**Serve. Support. Share.**

Minister of Music	Greg Paul
Church Office Manager	Sue Francik
Principal	Chris Francik
Preschool Director	Blythe Mackinder
School Office Manager	Julie Hansen

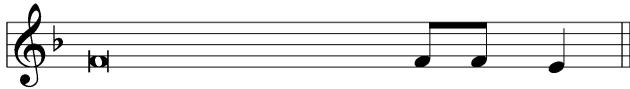
**Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church! We are glad you are worshiping with us as God comes to us through His Word to bring new life in Christ. If you have questions or would like more information, please speak with an elder, usher, or pastor. Guests are invited to complete an attendance card in the pew and place it in the offering plate.**

## Prelude

### Service of Light



**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



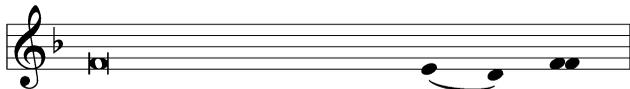
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



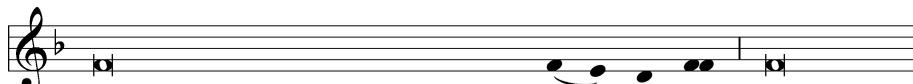
ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.



**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** A - men.

## Psalmody



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

- L** Let us pray.  
Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Reading Response

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## 1 Peter 2:21-24

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

### Reading Response

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Matthew 27:45-54

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

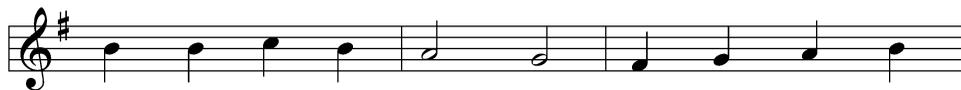
**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## Hymn: O Darkest Woe

LSB 448 sts. 1, 3, 5, 7



1 O dark - est woe! Ye tears, forth flow! Has  
3 O child of woe: Who struck the blow That  
5 Such in - no - cence! His coun - te - nance A  
7 O Je - sus Christ, Who sac - ri - ficed Thy



earth so sad a won - der? God the Fa - ther's  
killed our gra - cious Mas - ter? "It was I," thy  
fount of faith un - dy - ing! Worlds on worlds can -  
life for life - less mor - tals: Be my life in



on - ly Son Now is bur - ied yon - der.  
con - science cries, "I have wrought dis - as - ter!"  
not con - tain Grief at Him here ly - ing,  
death and bring Me to heav - en's por - tals!

## Sermon "Behold, His Innocent Sacrifice" -

Rev James Rolf

## Canticle

*Refrain*



My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -



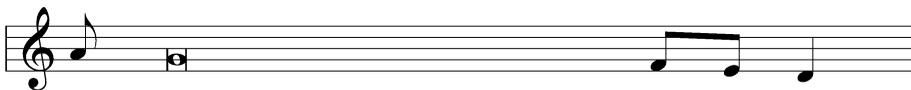
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the



Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded  
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.  
 2 and holy . . . . . is His name;  
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.  
 5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - - - - - men. *Refrain*

**Offering**

## Prayer

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** **Amen.**

## Hymn: Abide with Me

LSB 878 sts. 1, 4-6



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!  
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## *SPRO Stewards*

	<b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Pastor Liturgist</b>	<b>Rev. James Rolf Kurt Schmidt</b>	<b>Rev. Peter Nickel Kurt Schmidt</b>
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Jim Schultz</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Brett Hansen, Dave Hemming, Drew Haselton, Zack Lorence</b>	<b>Brett Hansen, Zack Lorence, Drew Haselton, Dave Hemming</b>
<b>AV</b>	<b>Steve Carpenter, Matt Schleusener</b>	<b>Sam Francik, Matt Schleusener</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Amanda Brandt</b>	<b>Amanda Brandt</b>

### **Acknowledgments**

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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