

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**8618 Church Hill Drive, Lohman, Missouri 65053**

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Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 30, 2025**

**NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.**  
**Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

**\*Gathering Song:**

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

**807**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Remembering that Jesus the Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and was raised on the third day giving us eternal life. We continue with confession and forgiveness.

### **\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **\* SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **GREETING (Please be seated)**

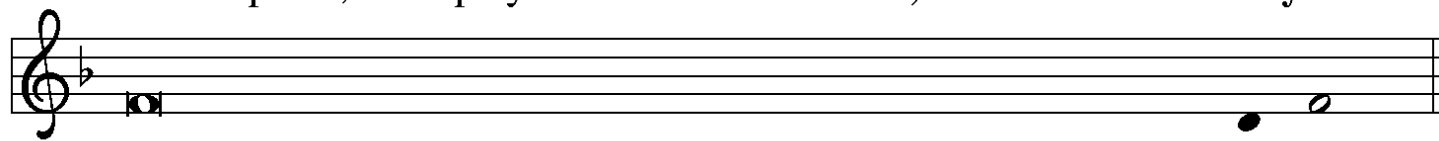
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

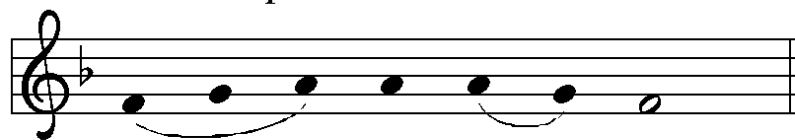
**Kyrie:**



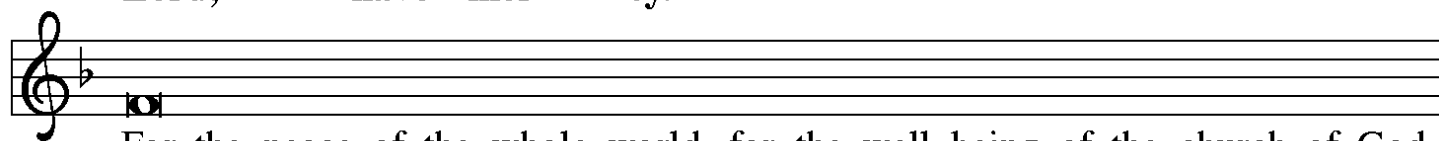
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



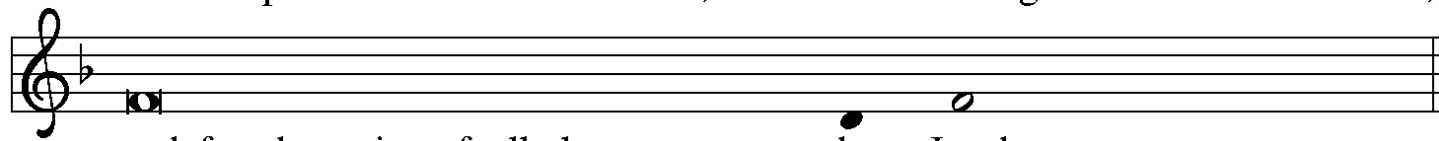
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



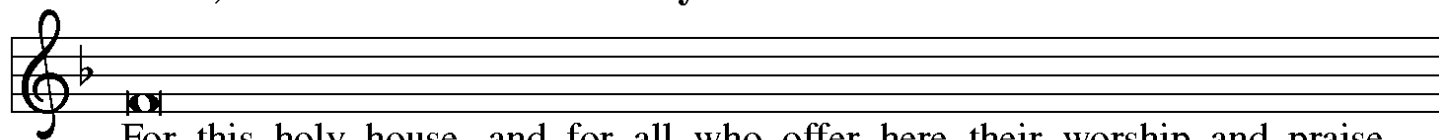
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



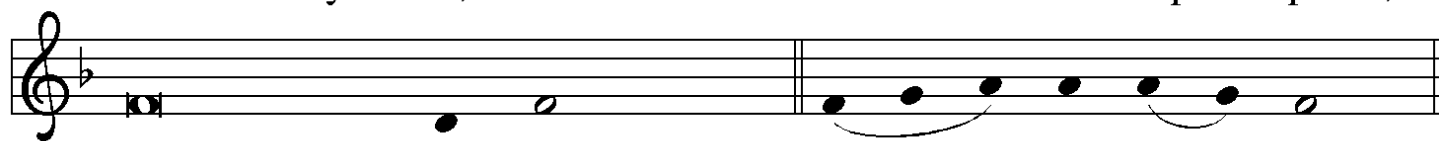
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



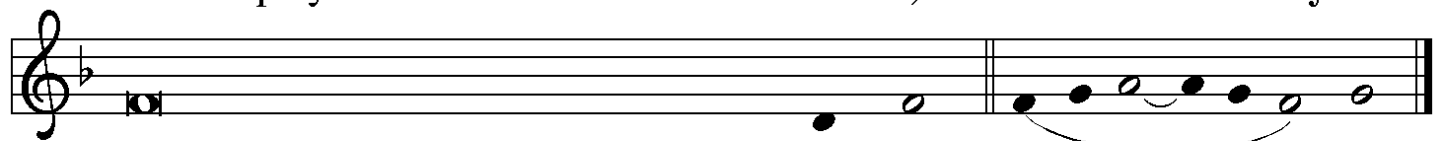
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## Hymn of Praise: Glory to God



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**Prayer of the Day:** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Choir: Psalm 32 “Steadfast Love Surrounds You”**

**Children’s Sermon**

### **WORD**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> lesson is a reading from Joshua, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter.**

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 32** (Read Responsively)

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because  
of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the  
great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have not understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**The 2nd lesson is a reading from 2 Corinthians, the 5th chapter.**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.**

## **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** "Grace for Two Lost Sons"

Pastor David Viles

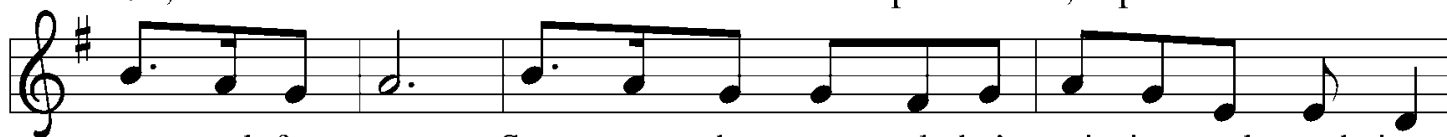
**Hymn of the Day:**

# Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

## THANKSGIVING

**Offering:** We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts. Through this small sacrifice, God's love is shown through us, to those who are in need.

**\*(Please Stand) Offertory: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Offertory Prayer:** Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.



**C: Amen.**

**\* The Prayers of Intercession:** The congregation's response to "God in your mercy," is "receive our prayer."

**\*The 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:** (Please Stand)

Pastor David

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

# My Life Flows On in Endless Song

763



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

**P:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

Presiding Minister  
Organist / Keyboard  
Song Leader  
Acolyte  
Audio / Video Technician  
Reader  
Council  
Greeters  
Altar Flowers

Pastor David Viles  
Zola Finch  
Dan Tschirgi  
Oliver Stoermer  
Roger Pennell  
Trish Russell  
Debi Berry  
Donald Weber & Marie Scheperle  
Rosemary Heidbreder

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCA Lent Ingathering** – will be collecting through Palm Sunday, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotions and body deodorants. Thanks so much. Donations are for the Samaritan Center.

**Wednesday night Lenten Services:** at 6:00 p.m. Pastor David has a program of weekly readers and we will sing the Holden Evening Prayer. The mid-week Lenten service envelopes will go to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

**Time for Easter Lilly orders:** Please give info of in honor or memory to Katheryn by April 13<sup>th</sup> Flowers will be \$10 each.

**Bell Choir:** will perform “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” next Sunday.

**Jr. Lutherans:** Please support our Jr. Lutherans by attending the spaghetti supper on Sunday, April 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Carry outs will be available.

**2025 Central State Synod Assembly:** will be held June 5 - 7 at Embassy Suites in Olathe, KS. Let Pastor know if you are interested in attending. Deadline to register is May 15. Church will cover all expenses (registration fee, hotel, food and milage). Reservation for hotel must be set up by May 6.

**The annual pancake and sausage breakfast** was held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turnout of over 120 guests. Thank you so much to all who came to dine as well as volunteered their time. A special thank you to the Evangelism Committee, Junior Lutherans, as well as everyone who assisted in any way. We couldn't have done it without all those who took time to: cook, serve, wait tables, offer seconds, clean, wash dishes, and dine in. We raised about \$1,220.00 which help make this a very successful event.

**Hymn History** – Robert Robinson was born at Norfolk, England in 1735. His father died when he was young and although his mother lived in poverty, she was known to be a Godly woman. Robert lived a rough life and became indentured to a barber in London. “Out on a frolic one Sunday with like-minded companions, he joined with them in sportively rendering a fortune-telling old woman drunk and incapable, that they might hear and laugh at her predictions concerning them. The poor creature told Robinson that he would live to see his children and grandchildren.” This captured Robert's attention, and he began to read extensively. At about the same time he heard the well known evangelist George Whitefield preaching on Mathew 7, the third chapter of the sermon on the mount. These events led to Robert Robinson entering the ministry at age 23 and wrote our Gathering song “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” three years later. Other interesting aspects of his ministry are that he moved around from Calvinistic Methodist to Independent to Baptist where he persuaded his church to have open communion, and even preached in the Unitarian Church, passing away that evening at age 54. Throughout his ministry he remained a nonconformist to the Church of England.

### **Schedule for Online Services:**

Services are at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on FaceBook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

All services can be viewed at any time on our St. Paul's website:

<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org> just scroll down to the middle section and click on the service of your choice under “In Case You Missed It.” Below that is another section for current and past bulletins.

Pastor David