



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Theme of the Day: Exactly What I Need: Life

I recognize the danger of death. I am tempted to wonder whether my life was worth it if I do not leave a legacy or live on in the memories of my loved ones after I die. When my soul separates from my body, will I also be eternally separated from God in hell? Jesus promises much better. He promises life. One day I will be reunited with my believing loved ones, both soul and body. I will live with Jesus forever in eternity. Jesus raised people from the dead to prove his power over death. That's exactly the power I need.

Order of Service: Service Setting Two (CW page 172)

Prayer upon entering church: Lord, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus because sin brings the horrors of death into the world. Comfort all who mourn those who have fallen asleep in your name with the reassurance that they are safely with you at your side in heaven. Reassure us that one day you will also one day do the same for us who fall asleep in your name. Amen.

Opening hymn: Draw Us to Thee (CW 700)

Invocation and Confession

The Word

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:17-37 – God enables the prophet Elisha to prove to a grieving mother that God can and will raise people from the dead.

The woman conceived, and she gave birth to a son at that same time of year, just as Elisha said to her. The boy grew up, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. Then he said to his father, "My head! My head!" His father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." So he picked him up and carried him to his mother, and the boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died. Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She shut the door behind her and went out. Then she called to her husband and said, "Send one of the servants to me with one

of the donkeys, so that I can run to the man of God and come back.” He said, “Why are you going to him today? It’s not the new moon, and it’s not the Sabbath.” But she said, “It’s all right.”

Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead the way. Don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.” So she went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her from a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! That’s the woman from Shunem! Now run to meet her and say, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your son all right?’” She answered, “We’re all right.” Then she came to the man of God at the mountain, and she grasped his feet. Gehazi stepped forward to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is in distress, but the Lord has hidden it from me. He has not told me.” Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Don’t give me false hope?’”

Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Hike up your garments for travel, and take my staff in your hand and go! If you meet someone, do not greet him, and if someone greets you, do not answer. Put my staff on the boy’s face.” But the boy’s mother said, “As surely as the Lord lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her. Gehazi went ahead of them and put the staff on the boy’s face. But there was no sound, and there was no response. So he went back to Elisha and told him, “The boy did not wake up.”

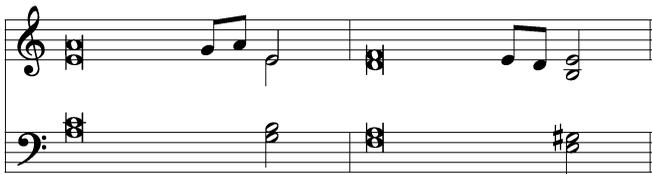
When Elisha came to the house, there the boy was—dead, lying on his bed. So he went in and he shut the door behind the two of them. Then he prayed to the Lord. He got up and lay down on top of the boy. He put his mouth to the boy’s mouth, his eyes to the boy’s eyes, his palms to the boy’s palms. Then he bent down over him, and the boy’s flesh became warm. He went back into the house and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him, and the boy sneezed seven times. Then the boy opened his eyes. Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call the woman of Shunem!” So he called her, and she came in. He said, “Pick up your son.” So she came in and fell at Elisha’s feet and bowed down to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

Psalm: Remember Your Mercy, O LORD (Psalm 130)

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, Lord;
Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive
to my cry for / mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the Lord, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Michael Joncas

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading: Romans 8:11-19 – The Father promises to raise me from the dead and make me an heir of everlasting glory.

And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you. So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live. Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of

to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. "Take away the stone," he said. Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, "Loose him and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth (CW 571)

Sermon: The Lord of Life and Death (2 King 4:17-37)

Nicene Creed (CW 180-181)

Prayer of the Church

Offering: We give our gifts to the Lord and sing "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" (CW 585 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

Lord's Supper (CW page 183)

Communion Hymn: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (CW 679)

Communion Hymn: Christ Be My Leader (CW 518)

Prayer and Blessing (CW page 187)

Closing hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father (CW 502)

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next week we will observe Passion Sunday. Our readings will be the Passion History from Matthew.

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Janice Hooton, Elmer Guritz, Myrna Vandergriff and David Moeller (juvenile diabetes).

Easter Flowers have a signup in the narthex. Orders are due by today and any checks are to be made out to Val Ecker.

Treats have a signup in the narthex.

Bible Study will look at Philippians 2:5-11 next week.

The Women's Ministry of Trinity in Crete would like to invite the ladies of your congregation (young and old) to Lenten Reflections on March 28 at 3:00. We will begin with light refreshments, followed by a look at several events during Holy Week. We will join our voices in song, hear the words from Scripture and prayerfully meditate. Please contact Kathy Brands at 815 484 3514 with a name and a number of those attending with that person. Also, you can call that number with questions.

Extra Services will be held Holy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3) at 6:30pm.

Communion Service In the Lord's Supper, our Savior offers unworthy sinners a personal pledge of forgiveness of sins through his body and blood. As he draws repentant sinners to himself, he also draws them into a special bond of fellowship with one another. In the WELS, we demonstrate this special fellowship bond in what is called "close communion." Thus, if you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor. He will share with you the steps toward establishing communion fellowship. Thank you for respecting our practice.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship with communion 9am

Bible Study after worship

Sunday School after worship

Wednesday: Choir 5:30pm

Worship 6:30pm

Sunday: Worship 9am

Sunday School after worship

Bible Study after worship

Organist: Thank you to Michelle Micheel

Last Week's Attendance: Sunday Worship 39

Bible Class

Sunday School

Wednesday

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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