

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

stpaulswatertown.org

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3RD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 27, 2011

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

10:30am
WELCOME

INVOCATION:

P. O Lord, open my lips,
C. AND MY MOUTH WILL DECLARE YOUR PRAISE
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Adapted from Psalm 100)*

P. Give glory to God, our light and our life.
C. OH, COME, LET US WORSHIP HIM.
P. Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord;
C. LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.
P. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
C. LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE.
P. For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

SONG: "Because We Believe"*(cong. sings echo and chorus)*

Vs.1: We believe in God the Father (echo) We believe in Christ, the Son (echo)
We believe in the Holy Spirit (echo) We are the Church and we stand as one. (echo)
Chorus: Holy, Holy, Holy is our God; Worthy, worthy, worthy is our King!
All glory and honor are His to receive; To Jesus we sing, because we believe.

Vs 2: We believe in the Holy Bible (echo) We believe in the virgin birth (echo)
We believe in the resurrection (echo) That Christ one day will return to earth (echo)
(Chorus)

Vs 3: We believe in the blood of Jesus (echo) We believe in eternal life (echo)
We believe in His blood that frees us (echo) To become the Bride of Christ (echo)
(Chorus) (C.1996 Mother's Heart Music & Integrity's Hosanna Music) Used by permission CCLI #1561573

LENTEN SELF-EXAMINATION:

P. What is the Fifth Commandment?
C. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.
P. What does God forbid in this Commandment?
C. GOD FORBIDS US TO TAKE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER PERSON SUCH AS IN MURDER, ABORTION, OR EUTHANASIA, OR OUR OWN LIFE IN SUICIDE.
P. What does God require of us in this Commandment?
C. GOD REQUIRES THAT WE SHOULD HELP AND SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBOR IN EVERY BODILY NEED; THAT WE SHOULD BE MERCIFUL, KIND, AND FORGIVING TOWARDS OUR NEIGHBOR; AND THAT WE SHOULD AVOID AND ASSIST OUR NEIGHBOR IN AVOIDING THE ABUSE OF DRUGS AND THE USE OF ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE THAT HARMS OUR BODY AND MIND.
P. What is the Sixth Commandment?
C. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
P. What does God forbid in this Commandment?
C. GOD FORBIDS DIVORCE EXCEPT FOR ADULTERY OR DESERTION, SEXUAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN UNMARRIED PERSONS, SEXUAL SIN SUCH AS RAPE, HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY, INCEST, SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE, OBSCENITY, AND THE USE OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, AND ALSO SEXUALLY IMPURE THOUGHTS AND DESIRES.
P. What does God require of us in this Commandment?
C. GOD REQUIRES US TO AVOID ALL TEMPTATIONS TO SEXUAL SIN, TO BE CLEAN IN WHAT WE THINK AND SAY, AND TO USE OUR SEXUALITY IN WAYS PLEASING TO HIM.
P. How do we lead a sexually pure and decent life?
C. WHEN WE CONSIDER SEXUALITY TO BE A GOOD GIFT OF GOD; WHEN WE HONOR MARRIAGE AS GOD'S INSTITUTION AND THE LIFELONG UNION OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN; WHEN WE RESERVE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE FOR THE MARRIAGE PARTNER ALONE; AND WHEN WE CONTROL SEXUAL URGES IN A GOD PLEASING WAY.
P. What does God require especially of married people?
C. GOD REQUIRES MARRIED PEOPLE TO LOVE, HONOR, AND RESPECT EACH OTHER. THE WIFE IS THE HUSBAND'S GOD GIVEN HELPER, AND THE HUSBAND IS THE WIFE'S GOD GIVEN HEAD.

CONFESSION OF SIN: *(Spoken together)*

Lord God, we confess today that we listen but do not hear Your words. We disregard the ways You seek to communicate with us today. As a result our lives become broken in ways that You do not intend, and we close a deaf ear to the cries of others around us. In Your mercy, forgive our stubborn hearts and spiritually closed ears. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

P. The Lord of heaven and earth promises to hear and answer the prayers of all who trust in His Son Jesus.

C. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN GOD'S HEART OF LOVE, NOT THROUGH ANYTHING WE HAVE DONE, BUT BECAUSE JESUS SUFFERED, DIED, AND ROSE VICTORIOUS OVER DEATH.

P. Because God loves each of us so much, in Christ we have been given the promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

C. THANKS BE TO OUR MERCIFUL LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST! AMEN.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. 17 Finally they turned again to the blind

man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." 34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

SONG: "How Beautiful" (see designated verses, ALL sing chorus and bridge)

Women: How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.

Chorus: How beautiful, how beautiful, How beautiful is the body of Christ.

Men: How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: And as He laid down His life, We offer this sacrifice that we will live just as He died;
Willing to pay the price, Willing to pay the price.

All: How beautiful the feet that bring, the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
(*Chorus*) (C. Used by permission. CCLI #1561573)

SERMON: Isaiah 42:16-20 "Are We Paying Attention?"

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

SONG: "Open Our Eyes"

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch Him and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, Help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

(Repeat)

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OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)

Anthem: "Speak O Lord" Adult Choir

OFFERING PRAYER:

P. Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving for the many physical and spiritual blessings You have given us, and the sacrifice You made of Yourself for our good,

C. WE LAY THESE OFFERINGS BEFORE YOU.

P. As these offerings support the ministry of Your life-giving word here in this congregation, and elsewhere throughout the world,

C. BLESS THEM MIGHTILY, THAT PEOPLE WOULD ALWAYS BE LED CLOSER TO YOU AS THEIR SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER: *(Spoken together)*

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.

THE BLESSING:

P. You are God; we praise you.

C. YOU ARE THE LORD; WE ACCLAIM YOU.

P. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

C. HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.

P. The Lord Almighty bless us,

C. AND DIRECT OUR DAYS AND OUR DEEDS IN HIS PEACE. AMEN.

SONG: “Lord, Most High” *(cong. sing echo and chorus)*

Verse: From the ends of the earth (echo) From the depths of the sea (echo)

From the heights of the heavens (echo) Your name be praised (all)

From the hearts of the weak (echo) From the shouts of the strong (echo)

From the lips of all people (echo) This song we raise Lord (all)

Chorus: Throughout the endless ages, You will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High
Exalted in every nation, Sovereign of all creation, Lord Most High, be magnified.

(Repeat verse)

Chorus: Throughout the endless ages, You will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High
Exalted in every nation, Sovereign of all creation, Lord Most High!

Throughout the endless ages, You will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High

Exalted in every nation, Sovereign of all creation, Lord Most High, be magnified.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF APRIL:

April 10th and 24th – 10:30 Service

Isaiah 42:16-20

"Are We Paying Attention?"

16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. 17 But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. 18 “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! 19 Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the LORD? 20 You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing.”

1. How do we listen to more than one thing at a time?
2. What does God expect us to do when he speaks to us?
3. How did God speak to his people in the past?
4. Where does God speak to us today?
5. Why aren't we expecting any new books of the Bible to be written?
6. How can we get God to speak to us?
7. How does the Holy Spirit prompt us to do things in our life.
8. What does Jesus do as our Savior when we haven't been paying attention to him speaking?
9. What does Jesus promise to do for us as we listen to what he says?