

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



FEBRUARY 22, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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AS WE GATHER- JESUS' RIGHTEOUS OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER LEADS TO THE JUSTIFICATION OF ALL-Following His Baptism, Jesus is "led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father's voice and waits upon His Father's hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives "by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18-19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more "have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many" (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience "leads to justification and life for all men" (Rom. 5:18).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING III P. 184-202

OPENING HYMN "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" 656

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P. 184-185

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 91:9-13; ANTIPHON: VV. 15-16

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

**With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

**no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

GLORIA PATRI

P. 186



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE

P. 186

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS 3:1-21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from

the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

HEBREWS 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the

grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ

NICENE CREED

P. 191

HYMN OF THE DAY

"THE TREE OF LIFE"

561

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH **P** Lord, in your Mercy,
C Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Scott Christenson	+ Darian Litzau
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Robin Lueck
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Karen Strei
+ Maya Radtke	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Angela Litzau
+ Merlin Mathews	+ Call Process for Associate Pastor

OFFERING

OFFERTORY **“ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE”** **422**
✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ **P. 194-199**

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"IN THE SHATTERED BLISS OF EDEN"	572 (T: 451)
"O CHRIST, YOU WALKED THE ROAD"	424
"GOD'S OWN CHILD, I GLADLY SAY IT"	594

NUNC DIMITTIS P. 199

COLLECT/SALUTATION P. 201

BENEDICTION P. 202

CLOSING HYMN "O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS" 418

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week

Sunday: 149

Sun School/Youth: 27

Bible Study: 23

Organist:

Lynn Mueller

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING- A Special Voters Meeting will be held TODAY Sunday, February 22nd between services, approximately 9:15 AM. There will be no Bible Study (there will be Sunday School). This meeting will be to vote on Associate Pastor candidates.

2. LOST AND FOUND- We have accumulated a lot of left behind items, including gloves, scarves, coats and an umbrella. Please check the coat rack in the main hallway to see if any of the items are yours. Anything remaining after February 28th will be disposed of.

3. LENT SCHEDULE- Please join us for our Midweek Lenten Service, on Wednesday February 25 at 7:00 PM. A Pizza and salad meal will be served prior to the Elders. This will be a free-will offering meal beginning at 6:00 PM, hosted by the Elders. (Please note that the services on Wednesdays March 18th and 25th will be at St. Peter Lutheran Church.)

4. PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS will be held ALL THURSDAY evenings in February from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's music room. Babies through age 5 are welcome! Questions? Contact Jane Holasek.

5. LILY ORDERS- If you would like to order an Easter Lily, forms are available on the table in the Upper Narthex. Deadline to order is March 5th. No late orders will be taken.

6. BAKED POTATO BAR- The Board of Education invites all youth and congregation members to join them for a Baked Potato Bar following second service on Sunday, March 8th. Please bring your favorite topping to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Upper Narthex to indicate how many will be attending, and what topping you are bringing. Please also bring your favorite card/board game to play after lunch.

7. DARTBALL- If you would like to order a Dartball t-shirt or sweatshirt, forms are available on the table in the Upper Narthex. Deadline to order is TODAY Sunday, February 22nd. Reach out to Amy Meyer if you have any questions.

8. OUT OF OFFICE- Administrative Assistant Amanda will be out of the office Tuesday, February 24th and Thursday-Friday March 6-7.

9. MEAL TRAIN- A meal train has been set up for the Schulteis Family. What is Meal Train? Please use this link to visit the meal train sign up for the Schulteis family: <https://mealtrain.com/8nzeg4>

10. SCHEDULE- *March 1:* Ushers: 1st Service-Larry Hoof, Stewart Ruwersma, Jr., Derek Zebell; 2nd Service: Sheldon Ehrke, Brett Schmidt, Beau Schmidt; Acolytes: 1st Service- E. Novotny, B. Peterson; 2nd Service: A. Dawson, I. Foust; Greeters- 1st Service: Jason & Mandy Lyons; 2nd Service: Mike & April Lee Family; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Altar Guild: Linda Mensing, April Lee, Jane Roth; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Feb 22	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM Special Voters Meeting Sunday School WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM
Mon. Feb 23		Release Time Classes
Tues. Feb 24		Admin Assist Amanda out of office
Wed. Feb 25	Noon 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time Lent Meal hosted by Elders MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE
Thur. Feb 26	6:30 p.m.	Music Class
Sun. March 1	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION Sunday School/Adult Bible Study WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION