

Sunday & Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026



# exactly what i need

a champion



ST. PAUL

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LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



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## LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

*As Christians united in common faith, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to nurture believers and bring the lost to faith in Jesus through God's Holy Word and Sacraments.*

### ***Welcome!***

- Restrooms are in the church basement located just at the bottom of the front stairs. Changing tables are available to parents.
  - An elevator is available on the north side of the church entrance.
  - The basement is available to parents needing to quiet small children. The area is equipped with closed circuit TV.
  - Out of respect for all who worship today, please silence all electronic devices.
  - Children's Activity Bags are available in the narthex. Please return them to the 'used' bin after service.
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## A CHAMPION

*I recognize my inability to defend myself against spiritual enemies. The world is against me, but I look for ways to imitate it. I try to master my own sinful flesh, but I recognize desires in myself that war against my soul. And when it comes to the devil, I fall into temptation again and again. My impending death proves that I have sinned. I realize that what I really need is a champion. God the Father realized it too. He sent his Son to be my Savior. Through the obedience of the Son of God, I have victory over my enemies.*

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Service Setting 3, CW p. 188

### **Choir Anthem** (Cong. v. 2-3)

### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.*

***Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.***

***Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.***

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **Confession**

CW 172

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should**

**have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**There Is a Redeemer**

CW 519 sts. 1–2

## **The Word**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Genesis 3:1–15*

*God promised to send a champion to do what I could not, defeating my greatest enemy.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Choir Anthem**

## *Angel Band*

*My latest sun is sinking fast. My race is nearly run. My strongest trials now are past. My triumph has begun.*

*Chorus 1: Oh, come, angel band. Come and around me, stand.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings, to my immortal home.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings, to my immortal home.*

*Instrumental:*

*Verse 2: Oh, bear my longing heart to Him. Who bled and died for me. Whose blood now cleanses from all sin. And gives me victory*

*Verse 3: I've almost gained my heavenly home. My spirit loudly sings. The Holy Ones behold they come. I hear the sound of wings.*

*Chorus 2: Oh, come, angel band. Come and around me, stand.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings...*

*Reprise: I looked over Jordan and what did I see?*

*Comin' for to carry me home. A band of Angels comin' after me.  
Comin' for to carry me home. Comin' for to carry me...*

*Chorus 3: Oh, come angel band, Come and around me, stand.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings, to my immortal home.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings, to my immortal home.*

## Second Reading & Sermon Text

Romans 5:12–19

*Adam's defeat meant death for me. Christ's victory means life for me.*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

<sup>13</sup>To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.

<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

<sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

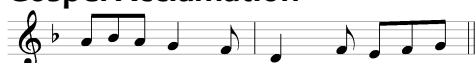
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:15



### Refrain

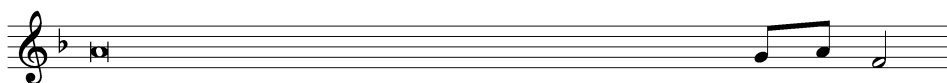


Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

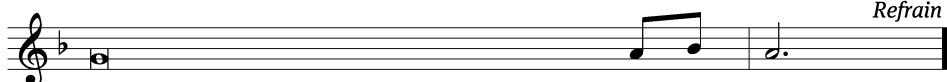


Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

### Tone



We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weak - ness - es;



### Refrain

we have one who has been tempted in every way,  
just as we are—yet he did not sin.

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## Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

*The champion of demons and the champion of mankind do battle. Jesus wins.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”



<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Children’s Message**

### **Choir Anthem**

*By the Rivers of Babylon*

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down.*

*Yeah, yeah, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

*Then the wicked, carried us away in captivity, required from us a song.*

*Now how shall we sing the Lord’s song here in a strange land.*

*Let the words of our mouth, and the meditation of our heart,  
be acceptable in thy sight, oh shaddai.*

### **Choir Anthem** (Cong.v. 2-3)

*Wayfaring Stranger*

*I am a poor, wayfaring stranger. While traveling through, this world of woe. Yet there’s  
no sick-, ness toil, nor danger. In that bright world, to which I go. I’m going there, to see  
my Father. I’m going there, no more to roam. I’m only goin’, over Jordan. I’m only goin’,  
over home.*

*I know dark clouds, will gather round me. I know my way, is rough and steep.  
But beauteous fields, lie just before me. Where God’s redeemed, their vigils  
keep. I’m going there to see my Savior. Who shed for me His precious blood.  
I’m only goin’, over Jordan. I’m only goin’ over home.*

*I want to wear that crown of glory. When I get home to that good land. I  
want to shout salvation’s story. In concert with that blood washed band. I’m  
going there, to see my father. I’m going home, no more to roam. I’m just a-  
goin’, over Jordan. I’m just a-goin’, over home.*

## **Sermon**

**Pastor Matt Holtz**

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Offering & WELS Connection**

#### **Choir Anthem** (Cong.v. 2-3)

*Near the Cross*

*Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain; Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calvary's mountain.*

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever, till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.*

***Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the Bright and Morning Star shed His beams around me. [Refrain]***

***Near the cross! O lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]***

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

## Choir & Congregation Anthem

*Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow*

*Now rest beneath night's shadow. The woodland, field, and meadow; the world in slumber lies. But thou, my heart, awake thee, to prayer and song betake thee, let praise to thy Creator rise.*

*Lord Jesus, who dost love me, O spread your wings above me, and shield me from alarm! Though Satan would devour me, let angel guards sing o'er me; "This child of God shall meet no harm!"*

*My loved ones, rest securely, from every peril surely, Our God will guard your heads. May He sweet slumbers send you, and bid his hosts attend you. And golden armed, watch o'er your heads! Amen.*

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### Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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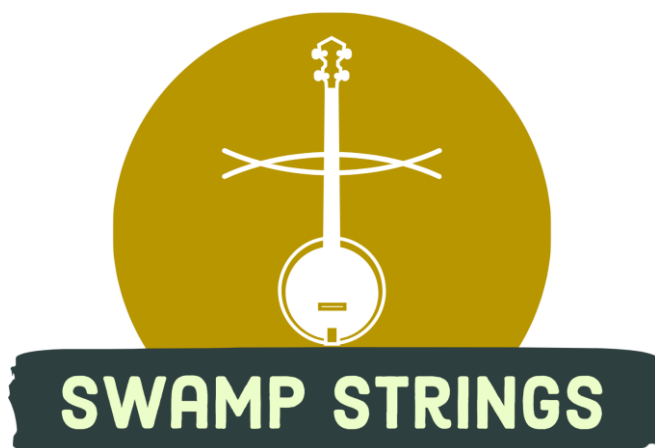
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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Preacher: Matt Holtz  
Presiding Minister: Justin Shrum  
Accompanist: Becky Ryan

### **Service Teams:**

8:00 a.m. Team Paulson; AV: Ti. Falck  
10:30 a.m. Team Abitz; AV: P. Tiedt  
6:00 p.m. Team Woehler



### **Featuring the Swamp Strings Band!**

We are a 7-piece band that loves to perform at retirement communities, assisted living facilities, church picnics, and community events. We do this as a ministry to share Jesus. Band Members are all volunteer and funds go to instrument maintenance, sound equipment, supplies, consumables/strings and occasionally a new instrument.