

# Welcome!

to  
*St. Paul Lutheran Church*  
*Clay Center, KS*

*Thank you*  
*for joining us for worship!*

*Lent - Midweek 2*

*February 25, 2026*

*Worship Folder*



## **St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:**

**COMMUNION WELCOME**-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

## **RINGING OF THE BELL**

## **PRELUDE**

## The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us

### AS WE GATHER

We pray, but at times God seems distant. Today we hear the Good News that God has come down to us as Jesus, who calls Himself “I AM,” the name Moses was to use. Jesus is God, in whom all of God dwells bodily, Paul writes. In His Son, our heavenly Father made lavish promises: to Abraham, “In you shall all the nations be blessed” (Galatians 3:8), and to us, who belong to Christ, “If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:29). God has revealed Himself in our Savior, Jesus, by His wondrous love.

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

**C** I have come down to deliver them.

**P** If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.

**C** In [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

### PSALM

*Psalm 124*

**P** If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—  
let Israel now say—

**C** if it had not been the LORD who was on our side  
when people rose up against us,

**P** then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

**C** then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**P** Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth!

**C** We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 3:1–15*

<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup>Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you

have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*John 8:48–59*

<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered [Jesus], “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’” <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’” <sup>55</sup>But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY

- P** I am the bread of life and the light of the world.  
**C** **I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**
- P** I am the good shepherd and the door of the sheep.  
**C** **I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**
- P** I am the resurrection and the life. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. I am the true vine.  
**C** **I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.**

## PASSION READING

*Mark 14:32–45*

<sup>32</sup>And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup>And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” <sup>37</sup>And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. <sup>41</sup>And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>43</sup>And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## OFFERING

John 3:16 — "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB 426 sts. 1, 4

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a  
Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,  
count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807  
Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYERS

**P** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

**C** **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**

**P** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

**C** **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**

**P** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

**C** **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**

**P** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.

**C** **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**

**P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

**C** **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**

**P** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.

**C** **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**

**P** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land.

**C** **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 Christ, our Lord.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

**C** **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we,**

**being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

- C** **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.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

- P** Our heavenly Father, who revealed Himself to us as love eternal, bless you;  
His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave Himself in love for the sins of all, bless you; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked trusting faith in your hearts, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**You Are the Way; through You Alone**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**For those who wish, the Sacrament will be served.....**

**LSB 526**

#### **Confession and Absolution**

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  
Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

#### **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

##### **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{†}$  give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**