

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR LENT



Ash Wednesday
FORGIVER



Week 1
HEALER



Week 2
LISTENER



Week 3
ENCOURAGER



Week 4
PROTECTOR



Week 5
COMFORTER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Service for Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

"In Nomine Iesu"

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Savior, Servant, Friend

Ash Wednesday: Forgiver

As We Gather

In this service for Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent contemplating that Jesus is our Forgiver. We will remind ourselves that Jesus forgives us again and again by his cross, even though we do not deserve it.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul's, please speak to Pastor before the service.

Please take a moment to fill out the registration card found in your pew rack.

Preludes *"Sing, My Tongue"* Benjamin Culli

Welcome

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

Order of Service

Theme Verse: *I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.* John 15:15

Invocation and Call to Worship *(please stand)*

P We gather together as friends in the presence of the Triune God who has called us friends. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P A friend loves at all times,

C And a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

P The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,

C And he makes known to them his covenant.

(Psalm 25:14)

P A man of many companions may come to ruin,

C But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(Proverbs 18:24)

P What a friend we have in Jesus,

C All our sins and griefs to bear!

P Precious Savior, still our refuge—

C Take it to the Lord in prayer.

(be seated)

Opening Hymn *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”* LSB #609

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

P Jesus, friend of sinners, hear me as I confess my sins.

**C My thoughts have befriended sin and shame,
not truth and righteousness.**

P O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

(Psalm 139:1)

**C My words have befriended lies and slander,
not love and mercy.**

P Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. (Psalm 139:4)

C My deeds have befriended hate and hurt, not peace and kindness.

P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. (Psalm 139:3)

**C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
Lord, have mercy!**

(Please silently reflect on the ways that you have befriended sin—and yet Jesus still calls you a friend.)

P Friends in Jesus: You have a Savior who has lived for you, died for you, and left the tomb empty for you. Your Servant Jesus has humbled himself to care for you. Your Friend, Christ Jesus, has cleansed you from all unrighteousness and washed away your sin. Jesus forgives you and loves you. Jesus is your friend now and for all eternity.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together:

All Lord Jesus, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lenten season that we may know your friendship and love. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(be seated)

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-17

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in

steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading (*please stand*)

Luke 7:36-49

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them

with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

P This is the Gospel the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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)

- P Jesus, deliver us from isolation, and give us a seat at your table where we receive your body and blood.
- C **Jesus, what a privilege it is to be your friend. Amen.**

Hymn Setting for Holy Communion

Preface (*please stand*)

(Sung to the tune: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" LSB #450)

- L The Lord is with His people.
Now may He be with you.

C **The Lord is with His servants;
May He be with you, too.**

- L Now lift your hearts to praise him..

C **To God we lift them high. 'Tis right to praise and
thank Him who to His world draws nigh.**

- L Always and everywhere it is right to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave His life on the cross for us that, freed from the power of sin and death, we might have eternal joy in Your presence, renewed in faith and life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

(Sung to the tune: "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" LSB #592)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Heav'n and earth proclaim the story
Of Your majesty adored,
Of Your kingdom, pow'r, and glory.
With hosannas now we meet You;
With our palms and praises greet you:**

**Hail! Hosanna! Blest is He
Who in God's own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we
Since we have God's love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken,
Of eternal love the token**

The Words of Our Lord

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 (+) 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 (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Prayer

L Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All 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.

Pax Domini

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

Sung to the tune

("O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" LSB #439)

Jesus, the Lamb of God,

Have mercy on us!

Jesus, who bore our sins,

Have mercy on us!

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, have mercy!

Give us Your peace, Lord!

Distribution *(be seated)*

(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.)

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. Gluten free wafers are available from a communion assistant.)

Distribution Hymns

<i>“Not All the Blood of Beasts”</i>	LSB #431
<i>“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”</i>	LSB #440
<i>“Chief of Sinners, Though I Be”</i>	LSB #611

Post-Communion Thanksgiving *(please stand)*

(Sung to the tune: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” LSB #733)

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace,
Your Word has been fulfilled:
My eyes have seen the Light increase
Which for the world You willed,

For Israel’s Light, the promised One,
Now shines for all to see.
To God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Be praise eternally!**

The Benediction

(Sung to the tune: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” LSB #450)

Pastor:

The good Lord bless and keep you,
Lift up His shining face,
With favor look upon you
And grant eternal peace.

Congregation:

**To Father, Son and Spirit,
Most gracious One-in-Three,
Be glory, praise and blessing
Now and eternally!**

(be seated)

Closing Hymn *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* LSB #770

Postlude *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* Roberta A. Hobby

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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Join us in worship throughout this Lenten season.

Midweek Lenten Services
February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25
6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 2
Worship with Communion
6:30 p.m.

Good Friday
April 3
Worship
6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 5
Worship with Communion
7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

