

*God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish,  
but have everlasting Life! - John 3:16*

*Welcome to*  
**SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**

***The Second Sunday in Lent***

March 1, 2026

"In Nomine Iesu"

915 - 27th Street, Marion, Iowa 52302  
www.mystpauls.org  
email: [office@stpaulsmarioniowa.org](mailto:office@stpaulsmarioniowa.org)  
Phone: 319/377-4687

In our tradition, this is the season of Lent, a time to focus on Christ and repentance. What was given up for us? The life of the Sacred One. In His name ~ **WELCOME to St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, and to the blessings, comfort, and peace of this congregation.

As you enter this house of God to worship your Creator, your Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who brings all God's children to faith, may you be blessed through this worship service and join us again soon.

**Each person or family** is asked to fill out the **registration card** found in your pew rack. The ushers will gather the cards from both members and guests following worship.

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.

**Prelude** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Robert A. Hobby  
**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells**

### **The Order of Worship**

Lutheran Service Book – page 151 Divine Service Setting  
One with Communion

## Entrance Hymn

*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"*

LSB #918

## Invocation *(please stand)*

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the  
truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and  
just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word  
and for self-examination.*

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 punish-ment. 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to  
die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To  
those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to  
become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy  
Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us,  
bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 105:4-7; antiphon: Ps. 105:8*

P He remembers his covenant forever,

C **the word that he commanded,  
for a thousand generations.**

P Seek the LORD and his strength;  
C **seek his presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
C **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

P O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
C **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

P He is the LORD our God;  
C **his judgments are in all the earth.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P He remembers his covenant forever,  
C **the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

### **Kyrie**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation  
let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise** (omitted during Lent)

#### **Salutation**

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

## Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Choir Anthem**      *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*  
Words and Music by Victor C. Johnson

*(be seated)*

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 12:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### Verse for Lent (*please stand*)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Holy Gospel

*John 3:1-17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(be seated)*

## Children's Message

Sermon Hymn "By Grace I'm Saved" LSB #566 vs 1-3, 6

## Sermon

### Nicene Creed *(please stand)*

**All** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(be seated)*

## Presentation of the Offering

### Prayers of the Church

*(After each portion of the prayers)*

P Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

### Service of the Sacrament

**Preface** (*please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### **Sanctus**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### Words of Our Lord

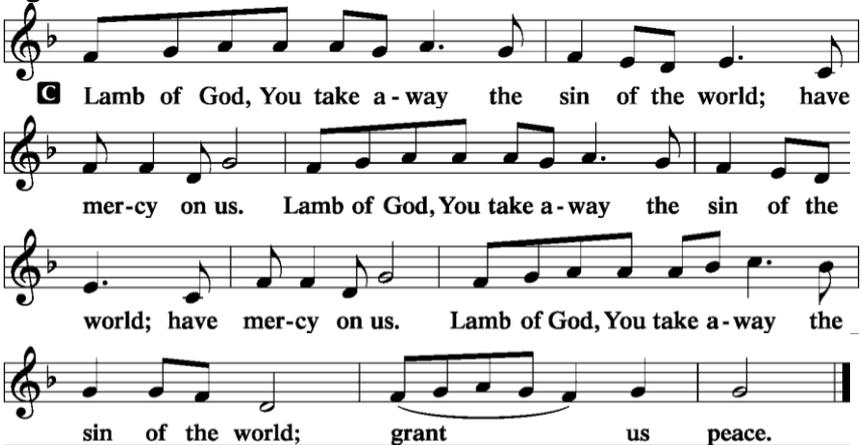
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *"Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."*

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."*

**Pax Domini**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.

### Agnus Dei



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### Distribution *(be seated)*

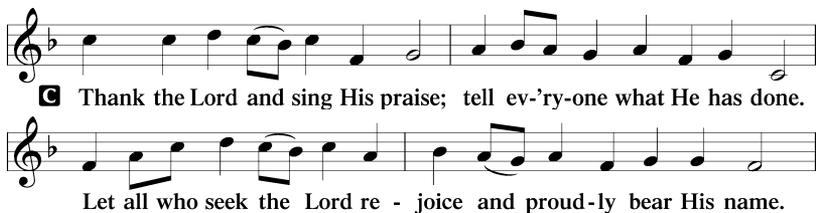
*(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.*

*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

"Glory Be to Jesus"	LSB #433
"What Is This Bread"	LSB #629
"Upon the Cross Extended"	LSB #453

### Thank the Lord *(please stand)*



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**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 (+) give you peace.

**C** Amen.

*(be seated)*

**Closing Hymn**      *“Jesus, Lead Thou On”*      LSB #718

**Silent Prayer**

**Postlude** *“The Glory of These 40 Days”* G. Winston Cassler

“Soli Deo Gloria”

Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Streaming license through CCLI, Stream License number: 20193242 Copyright License number: 1259603

