

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**



**The Hills of Lent**  
**Week 1- Mount Moriah**

**Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People**

## AS WE GATHER

The Psalms for today are taken from that portion of the Psalter titled "Songs of Ascent" (Psalms 120 through 134) which were offered "by the faithful pilgrims as they made their way up, through the hills of Judea to Jerusalem for the great festivals". Today's worship includes Psalms 121, 127, 128, and 134.

### The Opening Hymn "Savior, When in Dust to Thee" LSB 419 VSS 1-2

1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of

dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress

Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -

pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O

from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

## Invitation and Call To Worship

P I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**C My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

P He will not let your foot be moved, and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**C Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

P The Lord himself watches over you.

**C The Lord is your shade at your right hand, so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

P The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

**C The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.**

P Unless the Lord builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.

**C Unless the Lord watches over the city, in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.**

P It is vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late;

**C vain too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.**

P Children are a heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

**C Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.**

P Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!

**C He shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate.**

P Happy are they all who fear the Lord, and who follow in his ways!

**C You shall eat the fruit of your labor; happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**

P Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive shoots round about your table.

**C The man who fears the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed.**

P The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you live to see your children's children.

**C May peace be upon Israel.**

P Behold, now! Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you that stand by night in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord.

**C The Lord who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

*The assembly may come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Ashes are placed on the forehead in the shape of the cross as the following words are spoken: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*



## **Confession and Forgiveness**

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.**

### **The Prayer of the Day**

P 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 Lent 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.

### **First Reading**

### **Romans 4:1-3, 18-25**

What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness ...." In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "reckoned to him as righteousness." But the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

John 8:31-40, 56-58

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter:

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

Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house forever; the son continues forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did. Your Father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad." The Jews then said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



Sermon Hymn

“Just as I Am, without One Plea” LSB 570 vss 1-2

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Sermon

“Mount Moriah”

Pastor Scott Henze

Responsive Prayer

- P Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem.
- C **Go with us as we journey, God, as once you went with Abraham, our father in the faith. Grant that, like him, we hear your gracious promises and trust your holy Word.**
- P Everything that is written of the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.
- C **O Lamb of God, you came to be our sacred Substitute, to take our place beneath the wrath that sin had brought upon our race. Give us the faith to trust in you when laughter is withdrawn.**
- P For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.
- C **For us you bore the mocking and the shame, O Lord. Give us the grace to see your face even in the midst of things we must endure.**

P They will scourge him and kill him.

C **Lord, by your stripes we are made whole, and by your death new life is promised to us all. Help us to put to death whatever in us is not of your will.**

P And on the third day he will rise.

C **Lead us, O Lord, from testing to triumph, that we may share the life which you have given us, eternally. Amen.**

## Offering

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

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.**

#### Proper Preface

P It is good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks and praise through Jesus Christ whom You sent to be our Savior and Redeemer. By His death upon the cross He has paid the cost of our redemption, and through His wounds we are healed. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
 glo - ry. 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.

### The Lord's Prayer

- P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.**

## Words of Institution

### The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)*

### Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

## “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

## Closing of the Table

### The Benediction

P Jesus has called you friends and made known to you all that he has heard from the Father. Go now as friends of Jesus befriending others in the name of Jesus. Amen.

C **What a friend we have in Jesus!**

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For  
 2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, And  
 3. As you did hun - ger and did thirst, So  
 4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And  
 5. A - bide with us, that through this life Of

us did fast and pray, Teach us to o - ver -  
 did the vic - t'ry win, O give us strength in  
 teach us, gra - cious Lord, To die to self, and  
 through your Pas - sion - tide, For ev - er - more, in  
 doubts and hope and pain, An Eas - ter of un -

come our sins, And close by you to stay.  
 you to fight, In you to con - quer sin.  
 so to live By your most ho - ly word.  
 life and death, O Lord! with us a - bide.  
 end - ing joy We may at last at - tain!

*Gather Comprehensive 392*

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt.

Tune (ST. FLAVIAN, CM): *John's Day Psalter*, 1562; harm. based on the original *faux-bourdon* setting

## Prayer Support

*If you want to be lifted up in prayer, our prayer team is here to pray for you after the worship service. You can meet them at the Communion Rail.*

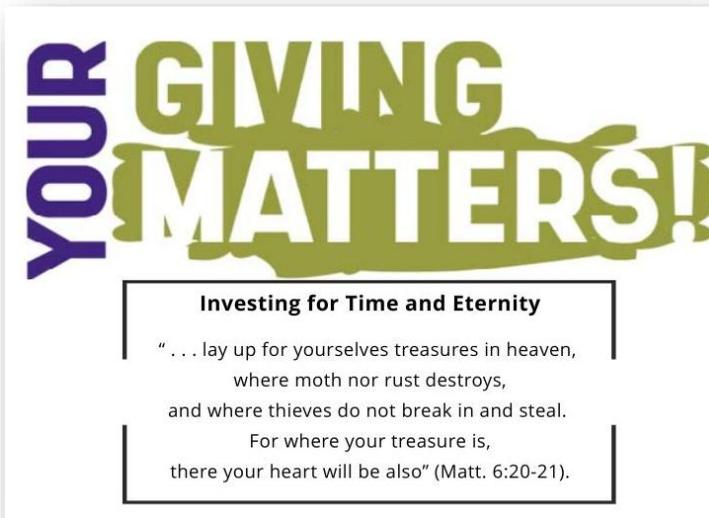
## Dismissal

P Lord Jesus, you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



**YOUR GIVING MATTERS!**

**Investing for Time and Eternity**

"... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where moth nor rust destroys,  
and where thieves do not break in and steal.  
For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:20-21).

# THE KAPELLE

Dr. Charles P. Brown,  
Conductor

OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



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## **Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!**

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

### **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

**Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor**

**Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

**Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director**

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**[www.stpaulweston.org](http://www.stpaulweston.org)**

**Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM**

**Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM**



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