

The Hills of Lent
February 25, 2026



Midweek 1: Mount Sinai

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, 124, 133, and 134 from that collection.

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 If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say:

C If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; then would the waters have overwhelmed us, and the torrent gone over us; then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

P Let us bless the Lord!

C He has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

P We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;

C the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C the maker of heaven and earth.

P Oh, how good and pleasant it is when brethren live together in unity!

C It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

P It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.
C **For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life forevermore.**

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.**

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.**

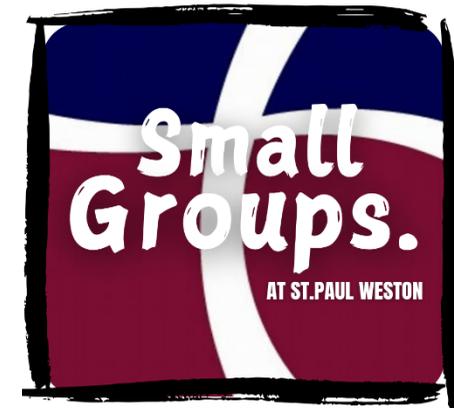
P O Lord, you have searched me and known me! (Psalm 139:1)
C **My words have befriended lies and slander, not love and mercy.**

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.**



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

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

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



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.

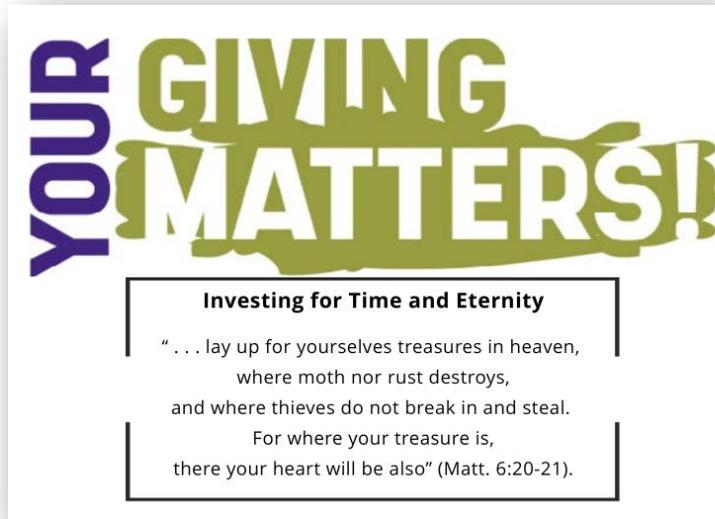
Dismissal

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!**



Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us again into Your presence tonight. As we gather in worship and fellowship, let Your Spirit move freely among us. Speak to our hearts, strengthen our faith, and let Your Word transform every life. For into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the evil foe may have no power over us. In Jesus' name,

C **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Corinthians 3:4-7, 11-18

We have confidence in God through Christ. There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God; it is he who made us capable of serving the new covenant, which consists not of a written law but of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life. The Law was carved in letters on stone tablets, and God's glory appeared when it was given. Even though the brightness on Moses' face was fading, it was so strong that the people of Israel could not keep their eyes fixed on him ... If there was glory in that which lasted for a while, how much more glory is there in that which lasts forever! Because we have this hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who had to put a veil over his face so that the people of Israel would not see the brightness fade and disappear. Their minds, indeed, were closed; and to this very day their minds are covered with the same veil as they read the books of the old covenant. The veil is removed only when a person is joined to Christ. Even today, whenever they read the Law of Moses, the veil still covers their minds. But it can be removed, as the scripture says about Moses: "His veil was removed when he turned to the Lord." Now, "the Lord" in this passage is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom. All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter:

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

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



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



Sermon Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423 VS 1,3

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent

whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
 love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -

from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
 From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
 hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Sermon

“Mount Sinai”

Pastor Scott Henze



Apostles' Creed

- C **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.**

Offering

Responsive Prayer

- P Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem.
- C **As once you led your chosen people, Lord, from slavery to freedom by your grace, now lead us on our sacred pilgrimage.**
- P Everything that is written of the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.
- C **As once you spoke to Moses in the wilderness, revealing there your saving will, now speak to us; and give us grace to hear and to believe in him who is your living Word.**
- P For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.
- C **As once you drowned your people's foes beneath the rushing waves, subdue for us the ancient Foe who seeks to keep us from obeying you with true and willing hearts.**

- P They will scourge him and kill him.
- C **As once you heard the cries of those oppressed by bondage, hear now, we pray, the cries of all who call to you in every need, and let them know the saving power of your promised victory, for by the death of Jesus Christ you have destroyed our death forever.**

- P And on the third day he will rise.
- C **Lord, by the victory of Jesus Christ, now lead us onward to the Promised Land. Amen.**

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.**

The Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.