

The Hills of Lent
March 18, 2026



Midweek 4: Mount Olive

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

AS WE GATHER

The Psalms for these services 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, 129, 130, and 134 from that collection.

The Opening Hymn "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" LSB 440 VSS 1-2



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.

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 Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, let Israel now say;

C **“Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, but they have not prevailed against me!”**

P The plowmen plowed upon my back and made their furrows long.

C **The Lord, the Righteous One, has cut the cords of the wicked.**

P Let them be put to shame and thrown back, all those who are enemies of Zion.

C **Let them be like grass upon the housetops, which withers before it can be plucked, which does not fill the hand of the reaper, nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves; so that those who go by say not so much as, “The Lord prosper you. We wish you well in the name of the Lord!”**

P Out of depths have I called to you, O Lord;

C **Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**

P If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

C **For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.**

P I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.

C **My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; with him there is plenteous redemption,

C **and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

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.**

Prayer of the Day

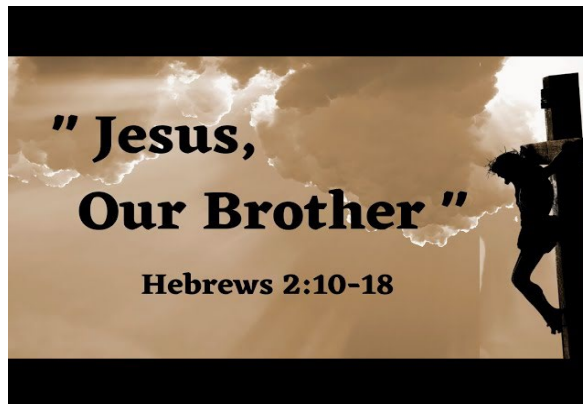
P Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us again into Your presence tonight. As we gather in worship and fellowship, let Your Spirit move freely among us. Speak to our hearts, strengthen our faith, and let Your Word transform every life. For into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our 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**

It was only right that God, who creates and preserves all things, should make Jesus perfect through suffering, in order to bring many sons to share his glory. For Jesus is the one who leads them to salvation. He purifies people from their sins, and both he and those who are made pure all have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers. He says to God, "I will tell my brothers what you have done; I will praise you in their meeting." He also says, "I will put my trust in God." And he also says, "Here I am with the children that God has given me." Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the devil, who has power over death, and in this he set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death. For it is clear that it is not the angels that he helps. Instead, as the scripture says, "He helps the descendants of Abraham." This means that he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful high priest in his service to God, so that the people's sins would be forgiven. And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself was tempted and suffered.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Reading

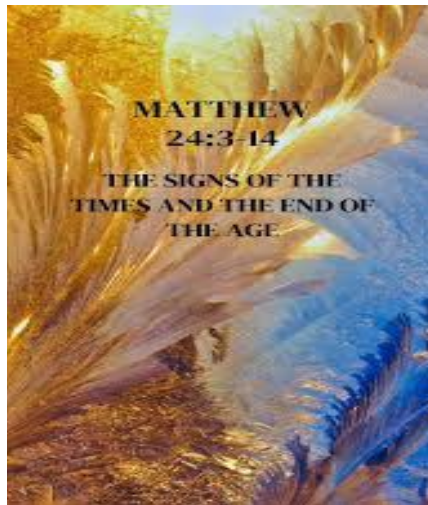
Matthew 24:3-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter:

As [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" And Jesus answered them, "Take heed that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places; all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.





1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

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 **O God, we follow where you lead, trusting in your gracious love for us. Your will be done.**

P Everything that is written of the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

C **O God, we hear the Word of your eternal promises and know that in your Son they all have been fulfilled for us. Your will be done.**

P For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.

C **O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us of those times when we have betrayed you by not living as your children. Your will be done.**

P They will scourge him and kill him.

C **O God, give us the faith to accept the grace your Holy Spirit offers us in Jesus Christ, that we may be your children once again. Your will be done.**

P And on the third day he will rise.

C **O God, raise us with him to newness of life. Your will be done. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

- Ⓟ 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.



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 - bid 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 - bid.
 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.

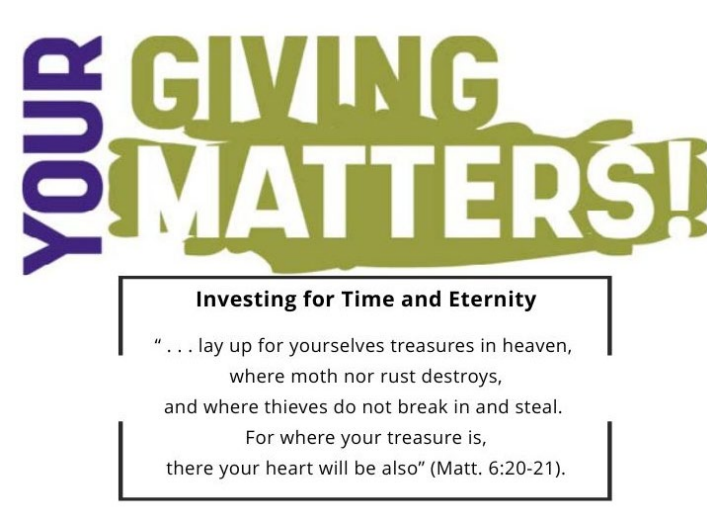
Dismissal

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

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

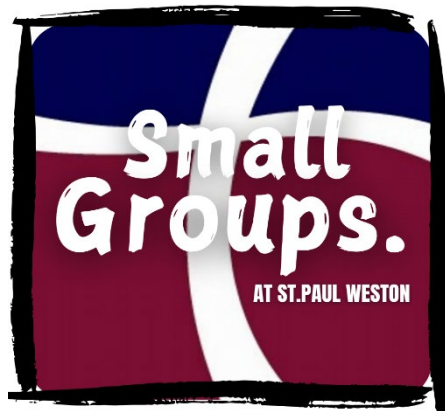
C **Thanks be to God!**



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).



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

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



Website and online giving