

The Hills of Lent
March 4, 2026



Midweek 2: Mount Carmel

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, 120, 126, and 134 from that collection.

The Opening Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" LSB 427 VS 1,3



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.

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 When I was in trouble, I called to the Lord; I called to the Lord and he answered me.

C **Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips and from the deceitful tongue.**

P What shall be done to you, and what more besides, O you deceitful tongue?

C **The sharpened arrows of a warrior, along with hot glowing coals.**

P Too long have I had to live among the enemies of peace.

C **I am on the side of peace, but when I speak of it, they are for war.**

P When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

C **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

P Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

C **The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

P Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourse of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

C **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

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**

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-6

Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years ... For behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go forth leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapters 8 and 9:

C **Glory to You, Lord.**

And Jesus called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father and the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power." And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and he was transfigured before them, and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things; and how is it written of the Son of man, that he should suffer many things, and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'ings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
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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** **The journey is not easy, Lord. Forgive us our discouragement, and keep before our eyes the triumph of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and all that he endured for us.**
- P** Everything that is written of the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.
- C** **When our way is difficult, come, strengthen and sustain us by your gracious providence made known to us in Jesus Christ who stood fast in his will to keep your Word.**
- P** For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.
- C** **Let not difficulty or disappointment lead us to despair, and even when we seem to fail, restore us by your grace.**
- P** They will scourge him and kill him.
- C** **As Christ endured for us, let us endure for him, until your victory at last is manifest.**

P And on the third day he will rise.

C **Raise us at last, when all our journeying is done, to reign with Christ in everlasting joy. 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.



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.

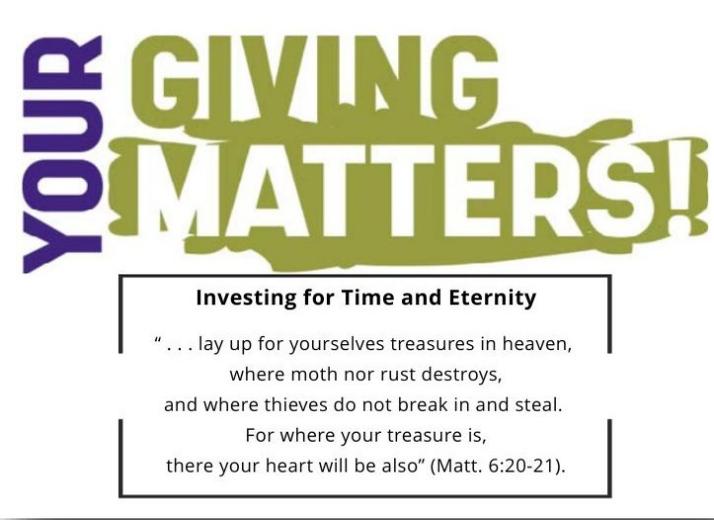
Dismissal

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

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

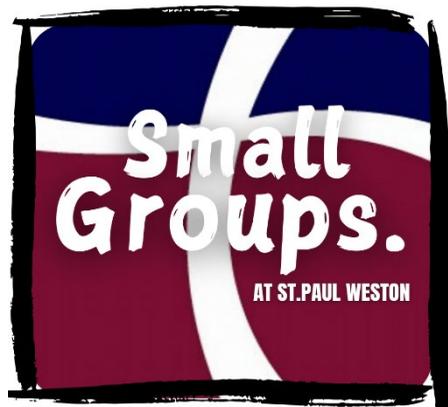
C **Thanks be to God!**



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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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