



First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Alyssa McCraven • Crucifer: Reese Goodman
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Autumn Hill
Communion Assistants: Susan Ryman & Andrew Baker

This Week's Memory Verse

For as by the one man's disobedience
the many were made sinners,
so by the one man's obedience
the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19



Memory Verse Aid

FABTOMD

TMWMS

SBTOMO

TMWBMR

R519

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Meditation”

T. Dubois

Special thanks to Rob Durocher for being our organist this month.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

77

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Reflection and self-examination

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor's house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor's.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Hymn: “The Sun Beat Down Upon His Head”

Lyrics by Mark Ryman

Tune “Truro” by Thomas Williams (“Christ Is Alive, Let Christians Sing!”)

Verse 1

The sun beat down upon his head
In the wilds where he had been led.
He had been there benea -th tho - se rays
Eating no fo - od fo - r forty days.

Verse 2

The tempter came to him and said,
If you're his S - on the - n make stones bread.
Man shall not live on bre - ad a - lone
But on words th - at co - me from the throne.

Verse 3

Jump from the rooftop without fear
God's angels wi - ll re - n - der their care.
Let my God be fore - ver - blest;
I shall not pu - t hi - m to the test.

Verse 4

Behold realms of humanity
Are yours if y - ou wi - ll worship me.
My worship you do no - t de - serve
Only God I - wor - ship and serve.

Verse 5

But I will worship God only
And I will ser - ve th - e King of kings.
Oh, no! This knee will ne - ver - bend.
I will adore - him - to the end!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Kyrie

78



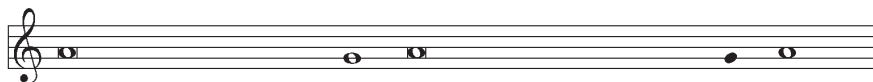
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



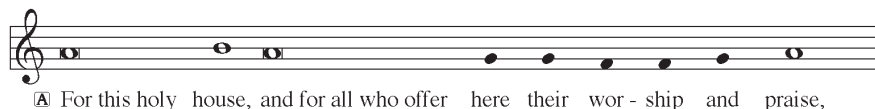
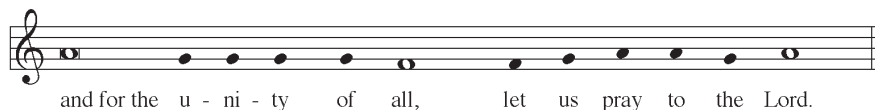
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.

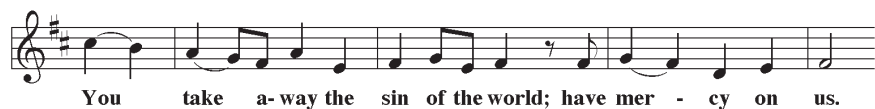


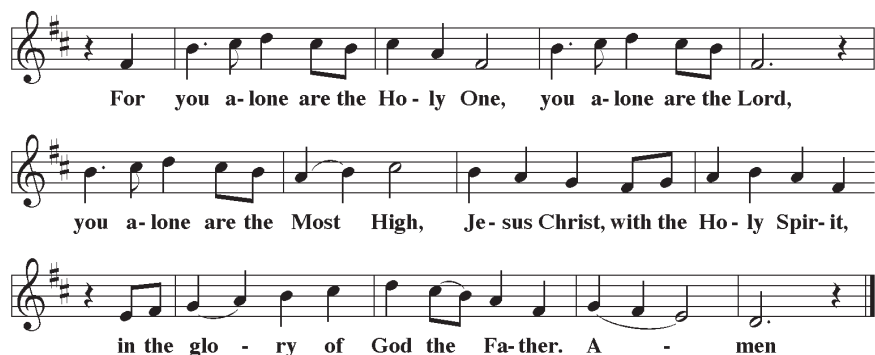
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



Hymn of Praise

79





Prayer of the Day

82



O Lord God, you would have us put no trust in anything we do. Mercifully grant that by your power we may be defended against all adversity—through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” ¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” ¹⁷And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 32:1–7

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

⁶**I said, “I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD.”
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers
to you in | time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁸**You are my hiding place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

Second Lesson: Romans 5:12–19

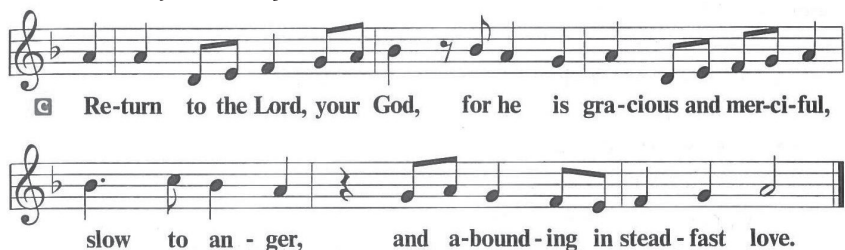
¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to

justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

83



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 4:I-II

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him

only shall you serve.” “Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

85

Let us together profess our faith in God using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**¹I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

²I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**³I 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**

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "Treedom"

Hymn: "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

99

The Prayers of the Church

85

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

Following each prayer: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Offering

86

Anthem: “Lenten Prayer”

Adult Choir

Please stand.

Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Let us Pray...

87

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

88



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

91

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**

Distribution

If you need a gluten-free wafer or juice, please hold up your index finger in front of you as the server approaches you at the altar rail. A pastor will bring communion to the pews for those who are unable to come to the rail. Please raise your hand so he doesn't miss you.

92



☐ 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, grant us peace.

Blessing The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Nunc Dimittis

93



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your



word has been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal -



va - tion which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry



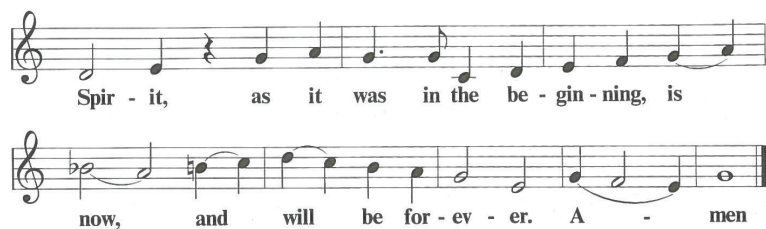
peo-ple: A light to re - veal you to the na -



tions and the glo-ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly



Prayer

94

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his—through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Postlude: "O Lord Throughout These Forty Days"

We remain seated, worshipping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Benediction

95



- [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.





Dorothy Albright Goodman

July 13, 1933 – February 18, 2026

Dot's funeral service was held
Saturday, February 21, 2026
in St. Paul's sanctuary,
followed by the
Committal service in
St. Paul's cemetery.

*Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord
from now on.
...because they will rest
from their labors,
for their works follow them.*

Revelation 14:13

Men Invited to James River Monday, February 23rd

Rescheduled due to snow—all men are invited to a special evening to learn about James River Equipment, and John Deere on **Monday February 23rd, at 6:30pm**. With the fellowship hall and kitchen unavailable, St. Paul's Men will offer opportunities throughout the year to learn more of other's work, hobbies and interests. Matt Holland, James River's Marketing/Online Sales Manager, will kick it off sharing information about the company and John Deere equipment as we enjoy sub sandwiches in their conference room. We will then enjoy a tour of the facilities.

Meet at the side entrance (nearest the animal shelter) at 6:30pm, Monday, February 23rd for an interesting evening learning more about those John Deere green machines and James River Equipment (1571 Julian Rd. Salisbury, NC 28146).

Youth and Family Museum Trip

The Youth and Family committee is planning a three-day, two-night trip to Kentucky to attend the Creation Museum and the Ark Museum. We will be leaving Friday, March 13th at 4am, and returning Sunday, March 15th in the evening. We will be attending the Creation Museum Friday afternoon, the Ark Museum Saturday, and doing a morning prayer service on Sunday before returning to Salisbury. **At least one parent must go with your child on this trip.** If you are interested in going, please fill out the form in the link or the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/6WnaR6whe2QGZXjR8>



**You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

Psalm 32:7

Sunday, February 22

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Join us at 8:30am, Monday–Friday in the chapel for morning prayer.

Monday, February 23

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Articles for March newsletter are due this week
- Lutheran Men, James River/John Deere, 6:30pm

Tuesday, February 24

- Bible Study classes, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 25

- Fun Bunch Lunch at Faith Soda Shop, 11:30am
- Lenten service, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice, after worship
- No Youth Confirmation Class

Thursday, February 26

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Sunday, March 1

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Collection for Women's Shelter

The St. Paul's Women are collecting items for the Battered Women's Shelter during the month of February. If you feel led to help, there is a **list of needs on the table** in the narthex. There are bins in the hallway and the narthex for your items.

**Mid-Week Lenten Services
through Holy Week**

Wednesday, February 25, 6pm
Matthew Cottingham preaching

Wednesday, March 4, 6pm

Wednesday, March 11, 6pm

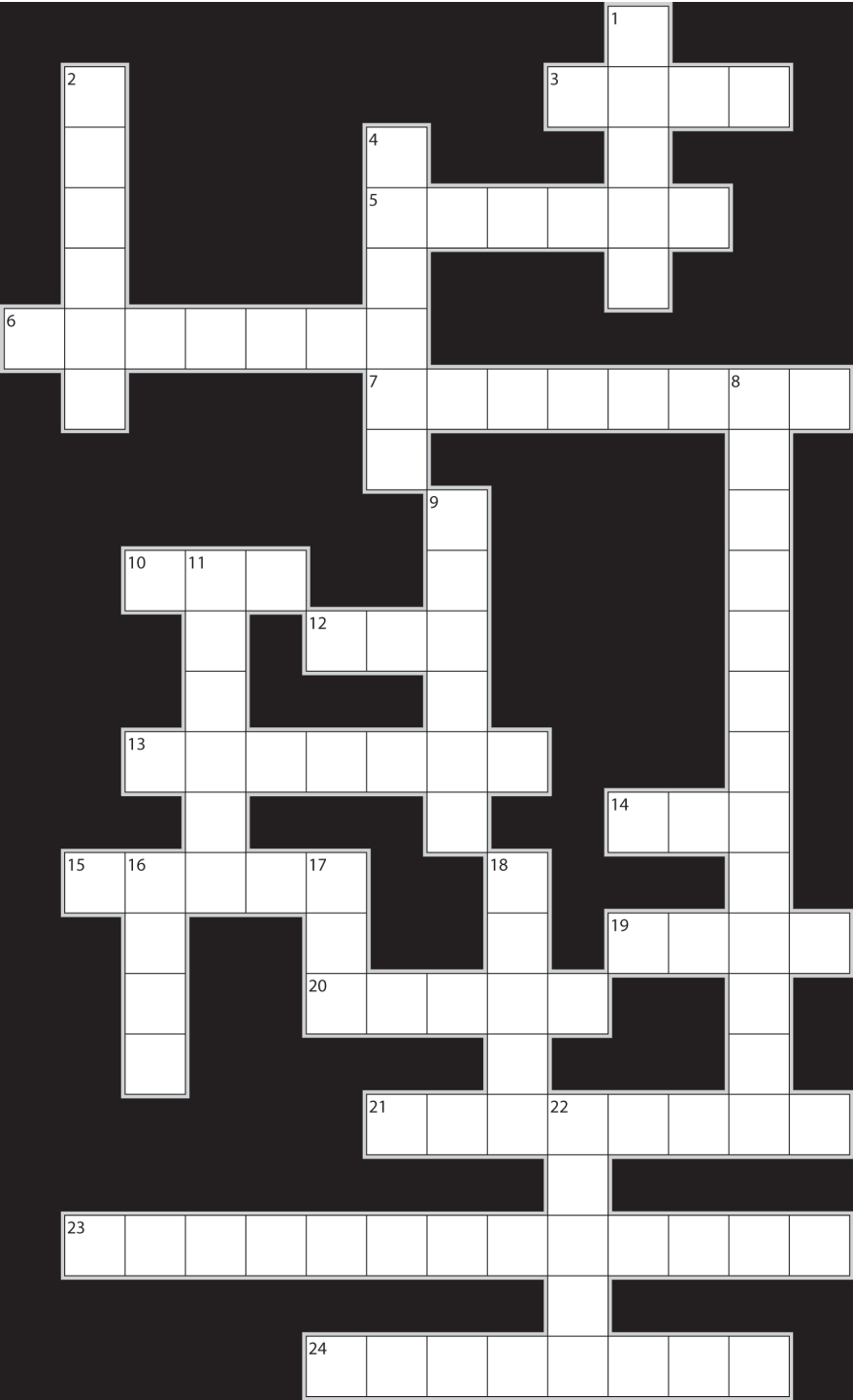
Wednesday, March 18, 6pm

Wednesday, March 25, 6pm

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7pm

Good Friday, April 3, 7pm

*Our confirmands
will be doing dramatic dialogues
in each mid-week Lenten service.*



First Sunday in Lent A

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

Genesis 3:1-21; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Lent1Acrossword>

ACROSS

3. You shall not live by bread alone but also by this.
5. Everyone who is godly should offer this to God.
6. He met Jesus in the wilderness.
7. Blessed is the one against whom the Lord does not count this.
10. Sin was in the world before this was given.
12. The deceiver said that Adam and Eve would be like him.
13. He was craftier than all.
14. Sin came into the world through how many men?
15. Life now reigns in believers through this one man.
19. You shall not put the Lord your God to the...
20. When Adam's and Eve's eyes were opened, they saw that they were...
21. This followed the one garden trespass.
23. God's free gift brought this to believers.
24. God made these from skins to cover the sins of Adam and Eve.

DOWN

1. When David kept silent about his sin, this wasted away.
2. After their disobedience, Adam and Eve heard the Lord there.
4. Jesus was led up by him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
8. Blessed is the one who has this forgiven.
9. God is this kind of place for David.
11. Jesus was tempted to command them to assist him.
16. The crafty one said these would be opened.
17. David acknowledged this to God.
18. Jesus was tempted to turn stones into what?
22. This is a free gift.

Because You Have Done This

Find the 27 bold words from Genesis 3:14–19 KJV.

Q Y J S B C M L T G W Y Z D E
P M E E H D A N K N R O A D F
J E A F E S N T C B E E M M I
D S T S P E N A T E H P G A W
T G R P T L Y N B L S L R I N
H U U N Z T A E W S E I O E X
C E X Z I S H E R B U T U K S
A L E M G I G N Y X T H N R F
S Y N L N H G H B L X R D Q B
Y E E R E T U R N S L X G F W
N Y L P I T L U M D T E T I O
E N E R D L I H C F S U B E R
T V X S S N R O H T U T Z L R
A C O M M A N D E D D C U D O
E C O N C E P T I O N F I J S

And the Lord God said unto the **serpent**, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all **cattle**, and above every **beast** of the field; upon thy **belly** shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put **enmity** between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her **seed**; it shall **bruise** thy **head**, and thou shalt bruise his **heel**. Unto the **woman** he said, I will greatly **multiply** thy **sorrow** and thy **conception**; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth **children**; and thy desire shall be to thy **husband**, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy **wife**, and hast **eaten** of the tree, of which I **commanded** thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed** is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; **thorns** also and **thistles** shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the **herb** of the **field**; in the **sweat** of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou **return** unto the **ground**; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust** thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Recent Prayer Needs

Please notify the church office when a prayer request should be removed from this list or updated.

- Jennifer Aldridge – recovering from surgery
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Bonnie Bernhardt – clumsy
- Samantha Clark – cancer (*friend of Cottingham family*)
- Dani Cottingham – recovering from surgery
- Frank Giambastiani – health concerns (*Lisa Lord's father*)
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Bill Kief – health concerns (*cousin of Carolyn Canup*)
- Gary Hinson – recovering from surgery
(*Bonnie and Wayne Hinson's son*)
- Craig Honbarger – cancer (*son of Judi and D.W. Honbarger*)
- Tammy Leazer – recovering from surgery
- Dennis Martinez – cancer (*friend of Lisa Lord*)
- Sharon McBride – health concerns
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – health concerns
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Jenny Smith – health concerns (*Bonnie Hinson's sister-in-law*)
- Johnsie Taylor – health concerns
- Ashley Powlas Young – health concerns
- The family of Dot Goodman who died February 18
- The family of Rick Walker who died February 8
- The family of Sandy Corley who died February 5

For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle.

This page in the bulletin is to make you aware of the most recent prayer needs.

Typically, after one month on this list the name and request will have migrated to The Monthly Epistle.

**Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 41:10

Stats

General Fund offering 2/15	\$12,165
Other offering 2/15	\$3,428
Worship attendance 2/15	174
Sunday School attendance reported 2/15	67

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$143.00 Total so far: \$1,043.50
Children's change collections this quarter
will support the Small Catechism Project.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$24,740.62 for missions.

The total collected for
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families
during the fourth quarter of 2025 was \$2,396.

The total collected for Friends of Madagascar Mission
during the third quarter of 2025 was \$2,248.50.

The total collected for The Table Ministry
during the second quarter of 2025 was \$2,022.

The total collected for Lutherans for Life
during the first quarter of 2025 was \$1,951.00.

More information about
St. Paul's Missions may be found at
StPaulsLutheran.Church/Missionaries



Reminder: Information for weekly bulletins should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday morning before Noon. Information for monthly newsletters needs to be in during the 3rd week of each month or earlier. You may email, call, or bring information. **Also, please be sure your and your family member's names are written in the friendship register each Sunday.**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Senior Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor
wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Dana Bost, Council President
Dana.Bost59@gmail.com

John Brock, Music Director
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Next weeks lessons: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17; John 3:1-17

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