



Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Acolyte: Josh Lord • Crucifer: Hila Canup
Cantor: Stan McConnell • Lector: Amy Hoffner
Communion Assistants: Bonnie Hinson & Stan McConnell



This Week's Memory Verse

The LORD himself watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

Psalm 121:5–6



Memory Verse Aid

TLHWOY;
TLIYSAYRH
STTSSNSYBD
NTMBN.
P12156

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Selections from Carmina Burana

Carl Orff

Special thanks to Ed Scibilia for serving as our organist today.

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: "If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"

453

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. **B** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



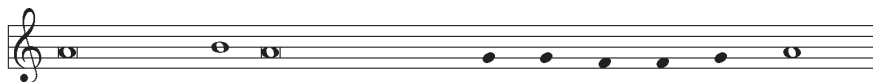
☐ A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☐ A - men

Hymn of Praise

79



☐ A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

Prayer of the Day

82

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

Almighty God, look upon the desires of your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Genesis 12:I-9

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
²**My help comes | from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth.
³He will not let your | foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not | fall asleep.
⁴**Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel**
shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;
⁵The LORD himself watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,
⁶**So that the sun shall not strike | you by day,**
nor the | moon by night.
⁷The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil;
it is he who shall | keep you safe.
⁸**The LORD shall watch over your going out**
and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.

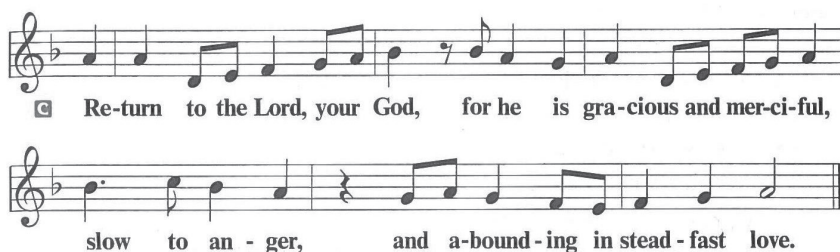
Second Lesson: Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” ¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring — not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

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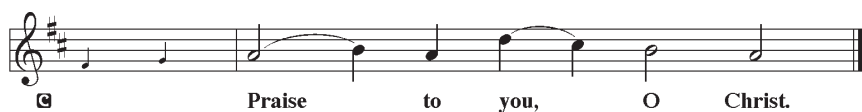
The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.



Gospel: John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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: "God Made a Way"

Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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The Prayers of the Church

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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

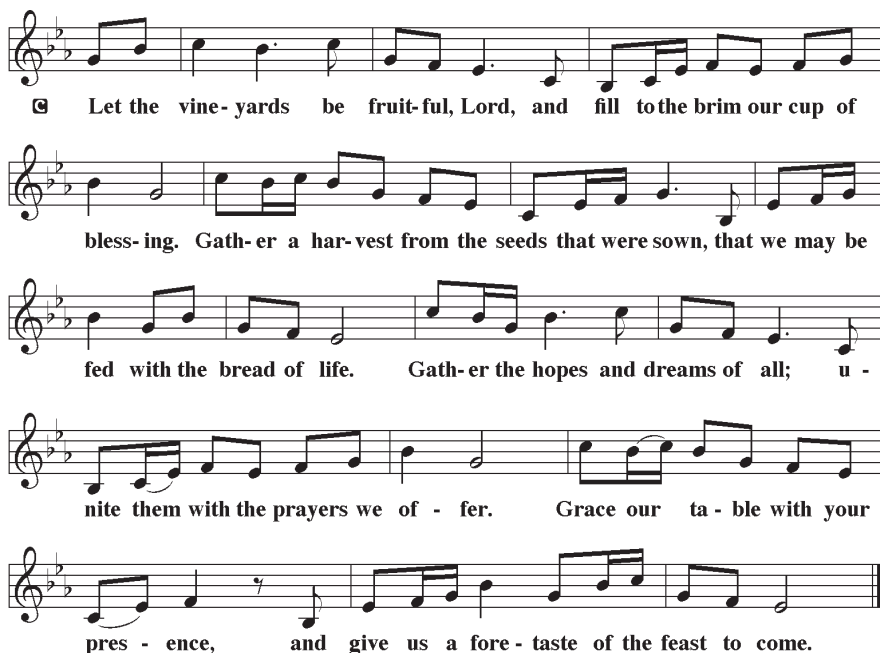
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Anthem: “Lead Me, Lord”

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

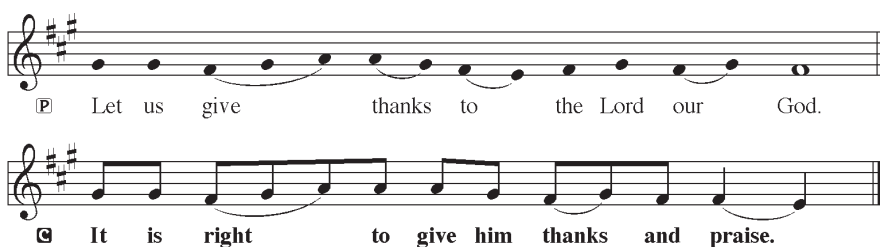
Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

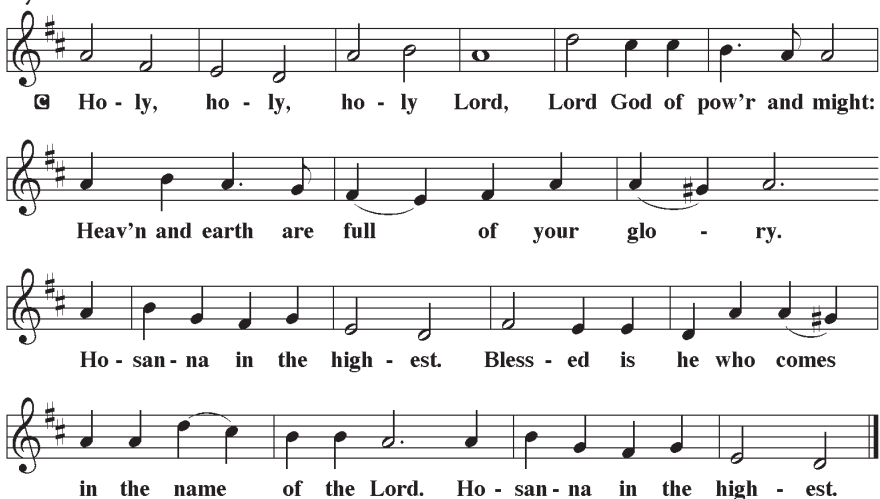
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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



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:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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."

The Lord's Prayer

91

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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

Holy Communion *Please be seated. An usher will direct you to the Table.*

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.

Agnus Dei

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 Dimittus

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
Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

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: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

arr. Ed Scibilia

*We remain seated, worshiping 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

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.

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

Amen.

Spaghetti Supper

On **March 21, at 4pm** in the fellowship hall, we will have a spaghetti and garlic bread meal (drinks included) as a fundraiser for Naomi's Heart Mission. Cost will be a free-will offering. Kristie and Danny Ward will be our guests of honor. Kristie is the founder of Naomi's Heart Mission.

If you plan to come, please put an S-(followed by the number in your party) in the friendship register by your name so we will know how much food to prepare.

Book Bag Collection

During the month of March the Lutheran Women will be assembling **High School Book Bags** for Disaster Relief. If you would like to help we will be collecting **book bags, composition books, mechanical pencils, pens, and pocket folders.**

After we assembled Elementary School Book Bags last fall, we found out there is also a need for High School Book Bags. If you feel called to help, there will be bins in the narthex and hallway. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

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

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.*

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

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

Monday, March 2

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Lenten service, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice, after worship

Thursday, March 5

- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, March 7

- Care Team meets for breakfast at Cracker Barrel, 8am
- Set your clocks forward an hour before going to sleep.

Sunday, March 8

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Kathy Ketchie Circle meets following worship
- Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- Worship and Music Committee, 3pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

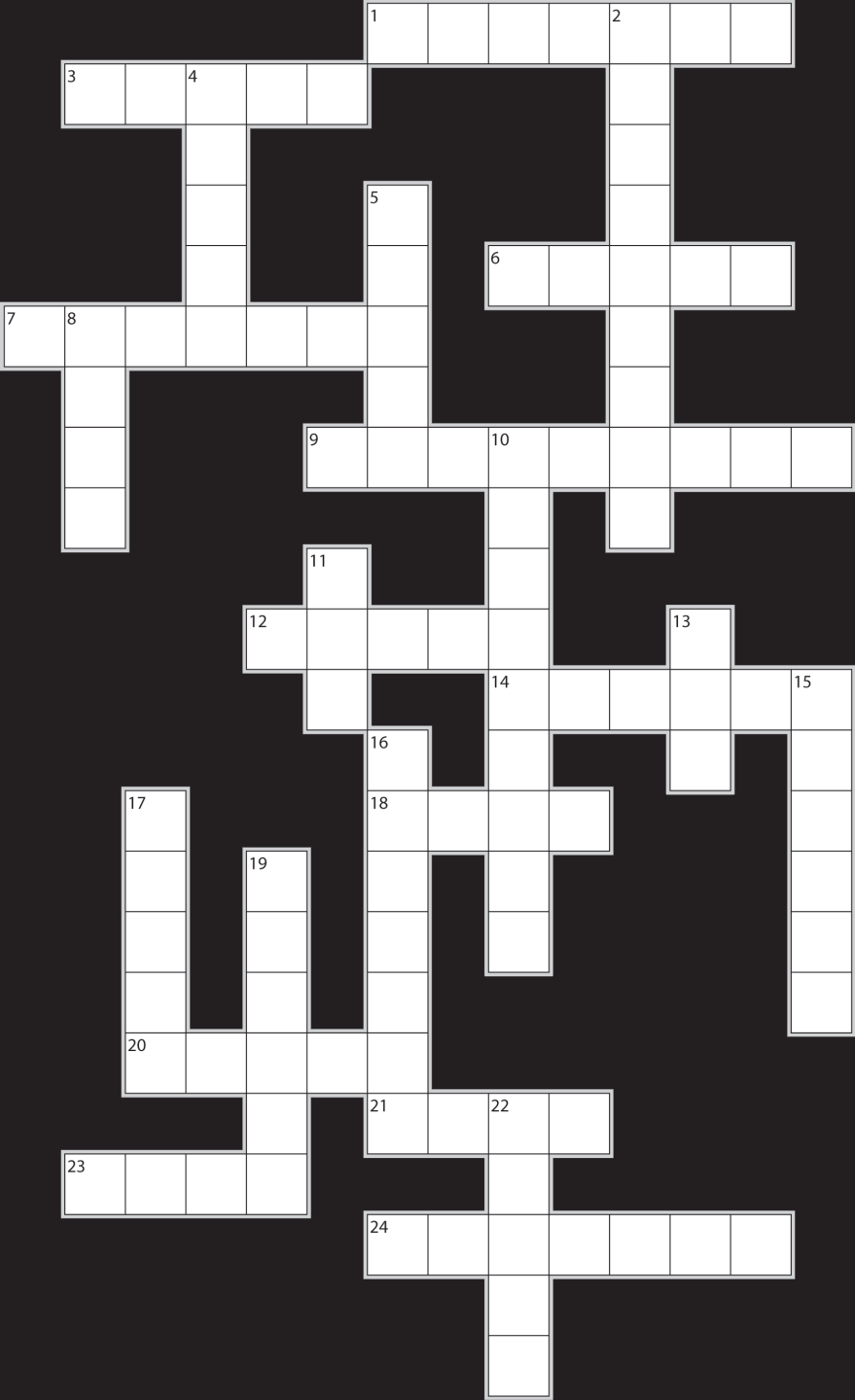
Recent Prayer Needs

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

- Scooter Aldridge – recovering from surgery
- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Bonnie Bernhardt – healing
- 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
- Kay Moody – recovering from surgery
- 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

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.



Second Sunday in Lent A

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

Genesis 12:1–9; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1–8, 13–17; John 3:1–17.

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Lent2Acrossword>

ACROSS

1. Unless you are born again you cannot see this.
3. The promise rests on this.
6. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor...
7. He who keeps you will not do this.
9. A Pharisee who came to Jesus by night
12. David speaks of a righteousness apart from these.
14. Whoever believes in God's Son will not...
18. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, he will keep you from all...
20. Abram was 75 when he departed from there.
21. Abram pitched his east of Bethel.
23. The Lord will not let yours be moved.
24. The Lord justifies them.

DOWN

2. No one has ascended into heaven except he who...
4. God told him to leave his country.
5. Abram's wife
8. Whence cometh my help (as the KJV states)?
10. The promise is to Abraham and his...
11. Abram's nephew
13. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord does not count his...
15. The Lord made earth and what else?
16. Moses lifted it up in the wilderness.
17. This is counted as righteousness.
19. You must be born of the water and the...
22. Abram was headed in this direction.

Previous Sunday's Stats

General Fund offering 2/22	\$9,265
Other offering 2/22.....	\$2,607
Worship attendance 2/22.....	177
Sunday School attendance reported 2/22	76

Children's Change Collection

Last week's total: \$254.50 Total so far: \$1,298.00
Children's change collections this quarter
will support the Small Catechism Project.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$24,995.12 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 name 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

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Next week's lessons: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-9; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-26-30, 39-42

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