

ASH WEDNESDAY

Midweek Lenten Service

February 18, 2026

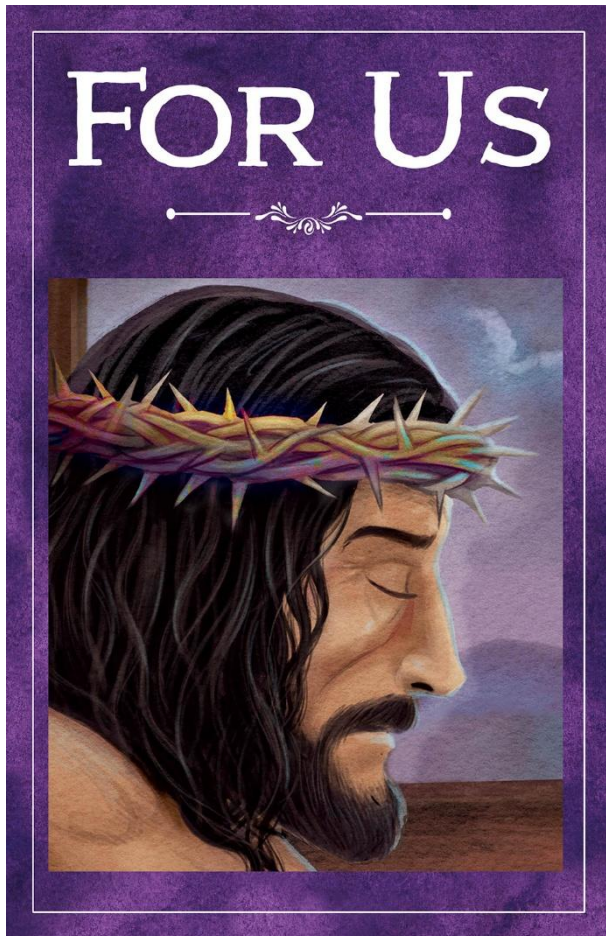
For Us

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
John 15:15

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

AS WE GATHER

Welcome! In this service for Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent contemplating the hymn, “O Love, How Deep” (LSB 544) while examining ourselves so we can understand God’s love for us that is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding.



WEEK ONE

The Robe of Human Frame • Examine why Christ came as a human to redeem us as His own.

WEEK TWO

Done for Us • An introduction to the phrase “for us” and how God’s nature is self-giving love.

WEEK THREE

For Us He Seeks • See how Jesus seeks us out and looks for ways to help and strengthen us.

WEEK FOUR

Healing from Demons • Hear how Jesus heals a man with a demon and how that work of healing continues today.

WEEK FIVE

For Us Betrayed • Understand how the way of salvation only comes through the path of suffering, and how Christ participates in this suffering with us.

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



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
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



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
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



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!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Psalm *Psalm 51:1–15, 17*

P As we focus on the overwhelming grace of God and His love, we must admit our sinful condition before we approach Him. Let us confess our failings to God, our heavenly Father.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C and cleanse me from my sin!

P For I know my transgressions,

C and my sin is ever before me.

P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

C so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P It is only with God's help that we can rise above our sin.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C and in sin did my mother conceive me.

P Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

C and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

P Let me hear joy and gladness;

C let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

P The joy and gladness we long for can be ours only from God, for He alone knows what we have done.

Hide Your face from my sins,

C and blot out all my iniquities.

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C and renew a right spirit within me.

P Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P As we approach God's throne of grace, let us ask for what we do not deserve and seek His presence, help, and even joy.

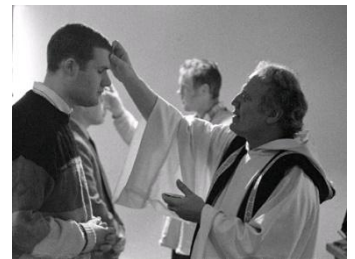
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

P Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
C and sinners will return to You.

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

(Please Be Seated)

[The imposition of ashes upon the forehead is one of the most vivid liturgical acts handed down to us. The use of ashes is to show on the outside the way we feel on the inside. Ashes mean that something has been destroyed or ruined. We have been ruined by our sins and are like ashes. When we get home and wash off the ashes, we will be reminded that Jesus washes away our sins and makes us new again.]



Imposition of the Ashes

People wishing to receive the mark of ashes on the forehead (or hand) may proceed down the center aisle of the sanctuary as ushers excuse each row. As the sign of the cross is made, the words spoken are:

"From dust you came -- to dust you'll return."

The penitent may respond, "Amen."

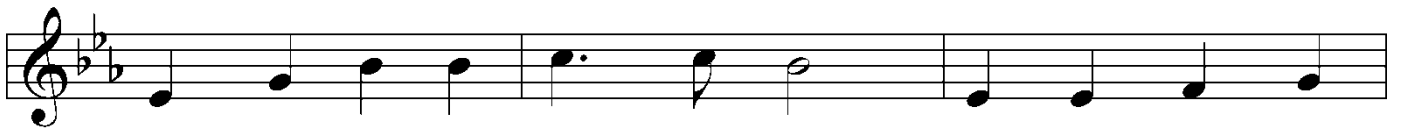
611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.


After all have received the sign of the cross the service continues:

Prayer of the Day

P Lord God, you have invited us to take everything to you in prayer. You know our weaknesses and how we are heavy-laden. You know the burdens that we carry in our hearts and minds. Precious Savior, be our refuge. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us this Lent that we may know your undeserved love. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Absolution

P Because of God's great love and mercy in sending His Son to die and rise for you, and as a called and ordained servant of His, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

+ Word +

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your love knows no bounds, and we cannot fathom Your great power, compassion, and love.

C Increase in us the desire to see our failings as clearly as You see them, so that, living under Your grace and love, we may give thanks to You with our songs of praise and in loving deeds toward one another;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Joel 2:12-17*

Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading *Ephesians 3:14–19*

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

544 O Love, How Deep

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 That God, the Son of God, should take
 Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 He bore the shameful cross and death;
 For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
 For us He went on high to reign;
 For us He sent His Spirit here
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

SERMON Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

The Apostles Creed

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.



Prayer of the Church

P Let us bring our requests to God, whose love knows no bounds. For all who do not know our loving Lord, that He would bring the news of Christ to their ears, strengthen them in faith, and urge them to live in love, let us pray to the Lord.

C O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P For the church, that God would open doors of opportunity for leaders and members to proclaim the Gospel, that schisms within it be mended, that the faithful be protected in body and soul, and that all people of faith find joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

C Grant them, O God, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit.

P Where the old and young are forgotten, the sick and grieving ignored, and the needs of any are not met, that God would prosper the work of farmers and ranchers, relief agencies and civic leaders to provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

C Grant that all caregivers reflect God's love and be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P For each of us, that our service to God, our concern for one another, and the mission He puts before us be joyful endeavors we seek for the growth of the church and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

C Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.

Offerings

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

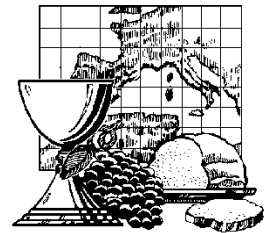
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



The Lord's Prayer

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 Words of Institution

The Distribution *Please be seated*

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine, which is the light colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

++ *We offer **Gluten-free** wafers upon request.* ++

706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
 2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
 3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
 mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
 ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.
 Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
 Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

543 What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Blessing of the Communicants

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



People: Amen.

Benediction

P Our loving Father—whose love is so deep, broad, and beyond all thought—His ✝ Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, accompany you now and always.

C Amen.

418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your

prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your

for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.

Where We Serve

Preacher	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Officiant	Pastor Jim Frusti
Music Director	Paul Ventimiglia
Ushers	Christian Krauter Lenny Elliott
Elder	George Foor
Reader	Dave Austin





LENT SCHEDULE 2026

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

12 NOON LENT SERVICES – PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH-
FARMINGTON HILLS

LUNCH AFTER SERVICES

2/18/2026– ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM

2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

7PM LENT SERVICES - ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH-
NORTHVILLE

5:30PM LENT DINNER

2/18/2026– ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM

2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST – 3/29/2026 - 8:30AM-9:30AM

PALM SUNDAY 3/29/2026– 10AM SERVICE

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 4/02/2026– 7PM SERVICE

GOOD FRIDAY – 4/03/2026– 1PM & 7PM SERVICES

EASTER SUNDAY 4/05/2026 – 8:30AM & 11:00AM SERVICES

WELCOME to St. Paul Lutheran

Our Mission is to work together to **SERVE** God (as we).....

S.....Share the Word of God

E.....Equip God's Saints for ministry

R.....Respond creatively to the needs of all people

V.....Value strong families

E.....Educate all ages about Jesus

The Sacrament of Holy Communion – Our Understanding and Practice

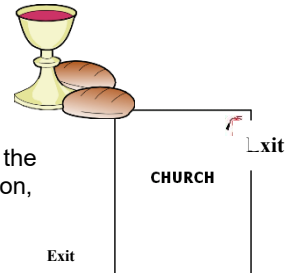
(Communion is Celebrated at **8:30** every 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sunday, every 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at **11:00**)

The Bible states, "Let a man examine himself...for anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." (1 Cor. 11:28-29) In order to receive the full blessing of this Sacrament; **you confess:**

1. I am a baptized Christian who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. I am truly sorry for my sins, repentant and resolved to amend my life.
3. I truly believe that I am receiving the very body and blood of Jesus with the bread and wine, and as a result, the **forgiveness of sins**.
4. I believe that this sacrament is more than just a memorial meal.


We ask that you acknowledge your public agreement with our practice by registering on the Friendship card. Please speak with the pastor or an elder if you hold a different confession, are in doubt or have any questions about communion or our Lutheran beliefs.

*Non-communing **visitors** and children may come forward to **receive a blessing**.*

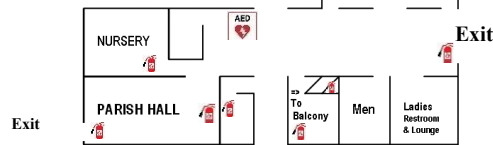


**Support St. Paul Lutheran
Church and School - Northville**

Use your phone's camera to
scan the QR code



Or visit:
<https://givebutter.com/c6UYGs>



A Nursery room is available near the Parish Hall