

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Holstein, IA      February 22, 2026      9:00 A.M.  
**First Sunday in Lent**

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those baptized at the Easter Vigil. The catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.*

**GATHER**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for you word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.  
**Amen.**

**Opening Song**

***Kyrie Eleison***

(see insert)

**Prayer of the Day**

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

***WORD***

**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So 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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Opening Hymn

## *Kyrie Eleison*

*Refrain*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

*Last time*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the
- 2 That we may live out your in -
- 3 For peace in our hearts, for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;  
passioned re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;  
peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;  
cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,  
that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,  
that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **Psalm 32**

(Read Responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
**and whose sin is put away!**
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
**and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
**because of my groaning all day long.**
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
**my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- <sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
**I will guide you with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."**
- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
**but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
**shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

## **Romans 5:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Message

### Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## **Matthew 4:1-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying 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, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message** Rev. Dr. Melanie Hauser

**Hymn of the Day**

***When We are Tested***

(see insert)

**Statement of Faith**

**We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always.**

**We believe Jesus Christ, fully God, fully human, experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God's forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit is God's promise touching our spirits, guiding us – even through the darkest and most difficult moments of our lives. We believe God is among us in community. Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age.**

From Remembering the Promise, Karol Baer, David Lee Brown, Larry Olson Hanson,  
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## Hymn of the Day

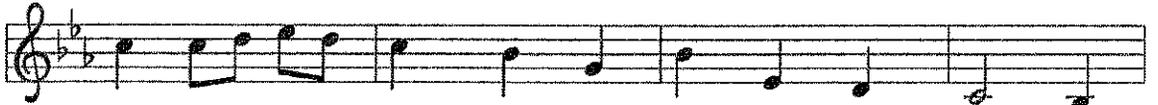
### When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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## Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Children's Offering / Offering

### Offering Song

### *Change My Heart, O God*

#801

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

Espinosa, 1987 Mercy Publishing, CCLI #833795

### Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Receive now the fruit of our lives and work of our hands. Use us, and these offerings, to reveal the love of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

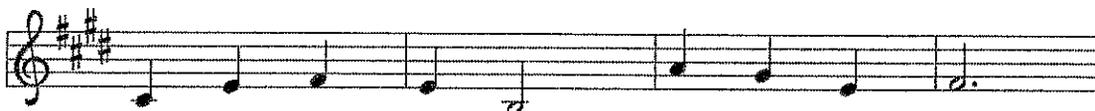
**Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### Hear Our Prayer *Prayer Response*



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

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Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956

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**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.**

***SENDING***

**Blessing**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**Closing Song**

***Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song***

**#808**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

## **Worship Participants**

<b>Ministers:</b>	All the members
<b>Vicar:</b>	Emily Anderson
<b>Pulpit Supply:</b>	Rev. Dr. Melanie Hauser
<b>DYME:</b>	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Organist:</b>	Sharen Borchers
<b>Pianist:</b>	Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Lector:</b>	Meagan Foresman
<b>Deacons:</b>	Marvin Todd and Reuben De La O
<b>Greeter:</b>	Diane Droegmiller
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Emmett Modrell and Mason Christiansen
<b>Sound &amp; Video:</b>	Lex and Cecily Jacobson
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Cheryl & Kurt Meyer Shanade & Brandon Stevenson

## **St. Paul Church Calendar**

### **SUNDAY, February 22 ~ First Sunday in Lent**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship

### **WEDNESDAY, February 25**

<b>5:00 PM</b>	LOGOS ~ "God's Mission"
<b>6:15 PM</b>	Lent Supper
<b>7:00 PM</b>	Lenten Evening Prayer Service

### **THURSDAY, February 26**

<b>2:00 PM</b>	"12 Women of the Bible" - Women's Bible Study
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### **SUNDAY, March 1 ~ Second Sunday in Lent**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship