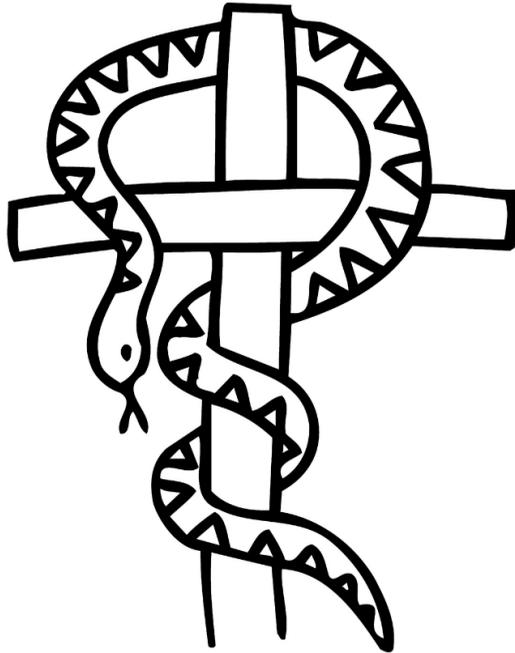


St. Paul Lutheran Smithville



Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026

Prelude & Welcome

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for ignoring the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For our self-serving ambition, and disregard for the needs of
others: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

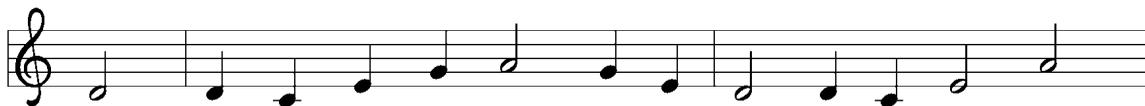
P: For the times we have not clung to the hope you promise us
or to our identity as your children, but have fallen for
temptations of fear and discontent. Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness are sure.
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.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** "What Wondrous Love Is This" ELW 666



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
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's 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.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**Greeting & Call to Worship*

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

C: And also with you.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ

**Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray. O God,

C: in our baptism, you give us a new life and call us your children. Give us a strong faith to trust in your promises and with your Spirit enable us to keep our promises to love and serve you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121

R: I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**C: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

R: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**C: He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

R: The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**C: The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

R: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**C: The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

****Gospel Reading:*** John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day:

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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The Apostle's Creed

A: Together, let us confess the belief that we share in this family of faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The words "catholic" and "apostolic" do not reference a particular denomination but mean: catholic = "one universal church" and apostolic = "the same faith that was handed down from Jesus to the Apostles")

The Prayers

A: Let us pray: Faithful God, You have inspired songwriters, storytellers, artists, writers, mothers, fathers, neighbors, and people in all walks of life to tell others about your love and kindness. Give to all your people the words and inspiration to continue sharing your story that all may know you in this generation and the next. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Living one, You take delight in your creation. All of this earth sings your praises. Protect what you made good and help us to value the things you value that everything you created gives abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful ruler, You bless us to be a blessing to others. Create a just world in this place where our values would match your values. Raise up leaders who care for your people and work toward peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate God, you sent your Son to save us, not to condemn us. Make us not condemn either but to offer hope and help wherever we can. Be with those who need you most, especially: April, Gary, Linda, Jaime, Ann, Barb, David, Dempsey, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Shannon, Ken, and the family of Malichi. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Guiding God, you watch over our going out and our coming in. Bless those who worship in this place that they may see you more clearly and give the praise you deserve. Bless visitors and guests at our Wednesday meal that they may find a community of blessing in our midst. Bless those who have left this place that they may find new communities of faith and may see you in other faces. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord, you are our keeper in this world and the next. Bless those who have journeyed with us in this life. Keep us rooted in the promises of eternity and the hope of our reunion with them one day. Comfort all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Choir Anthem:

"I Lift My Heart"

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Words and music by Kirk Robertson Arranged by Hal Wright*

**Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray.

C: God, our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these offerings. Use them to further your kingdom in this place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**The Great Thanksgiving:*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we celebrate your name and join their unending praise:

**C: Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are you, our Savior and Lord!**

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Invitation to Communion

P: We invite our assistants to come forward to prepare.

Come to the table of mercy. Join the feast of Salvation.

Holy Communion

(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal or you may come forward for a blessing.)

Communion Hymn:

“Only By Grace”



On-ly by grace can we en - ter, on - ly by grace can we stand;



not by our hu - man en - deav - or,



but by the blood of the Lamb. In - to your pres - ence you call



us, you call us to come.



In - to your pres - ence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,



now by your grace we come.



Lord, if you mark our trans - ges - sions, who would



stand? Thanks to your grace we are cleansed



by the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Gerrit Gustafson

Music: ONLY BY GRACE, Gerrit Gustafson

Communion Hymn: “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” ELW 811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

****Post Communion Blessing***

****Benediction***

**Sending Hymn:* “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

**Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Your Prayers Are Requested For:

***April, Gary, Linda, Jamie, Ann, Barb, David, Dempsey, Lynne, Phoebe,
Cassidy, Zach, Shannon, Ken, and the family of Malichi***

Thank you to those serving this morning

Pastor: Rev. Kristy Buyok
Cantor: Lesley Mast
Assisting Minister: Adrienne Karlen
Reader: Mark Miller
Pianist: Joe Hennell
Communion Assistant: Tim Preston
Altar Care: Rex Raff
Ushers/Greeters: Duane & Robin Eggeman
Bread Baker: Lyn Miller



Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:
www.stplcsmithville.org/services
If you are unable to access via the internet,
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.
Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.
stplcsmithville.org

This Week

Sunday:	Worship Sunday School Bible Journaling	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Monday:	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday:	Quilting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	Meal Choir Handbells	5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Next Sunday:	Worship Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming & Announcements

Empty Nesters: We will be preparing St. Patrick's Day kits and frosting cookies on Saturday, March 14th at 5:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Pizza and drink will be provided.

St. Patrick's Day Boxes: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for St. Patrick's Day box recipients. Sign-up sheets are also available for food donations, packers, and drivers. Boxes will be packed and delivered Monday, March 16th at 9am. Please contact Pastor Kristy or Robin with any questions.

People to People: Needed items: spaghetti sauce, kidney beans, cereal, instant oatmeal, and dry dog food. Thanks!

Canned Food: If you have extra that you can share, consider bringing canned food to place in the food box located in the church drive. If the food box is full you may place your food on the back table in the small fellowship hall. We will use this food to refill the box throughout the week. Thank you for your generosity.

Tetelestai Holy Week Musical: Tetelestai is a musical portrayal of the trial, execution, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. We will be attending the showing on Sunday March 8th @ 2pm at Lafayette United Methodist Church in Medina. We will meet for lunch at 11:30am here at St. Paul and will be carpooling together leaving at 12pm. They are also in need of volunteers to be greeters, and to bring cookies. If you would like to help, sign-up sheets and more information can be found in the narthex.

Easter Flowers: Easter is early this year! Flower order forms are available in your bulletin. Please return it along with payment in your offering. Orders and payments must be received by March 9th!



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru Paypal.

Wednesday Night Meals

March 4 – Tacos, Chips with Salsa & Queso and Dessert

March 11 – Beef Tips, Noodles, Green Bean Casserole, Salad and Dessert

March 18 – Kitchen Committee Casserole, Salad and Dessert

March 25 – Boneless Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Salad and Dessert

Serving in March In-Person	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29 (Palm Sunday)
Lay Reader	Mark Miller	Pam Root	Heather Blough	Brad Stumpp	N/A
Assisting Minister	Adrienne Karlen	Hans Kwee	Noah Raines	Pam Root	Lynn Moomaw
Greeters/ Ushers	Duane & Robin Eggeman	David Svegel Ernie Buyok	Tim Preston Alvin Rehm	Jason Mast Larry Allen	Bob Race Pat Badger
Communion Assistant	Tim Preston	Nancy Carr	Duane Eggeman	Lyn Miller	Aleena Mast
Altar Care	Rex Raff	Duane Eggeman	Ernie Buyok	Tim Preston	Larry Allen
Bread Baker	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller

Act of Kindness for the Week: Make an anonymous donation to a charity in a loved one's name

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