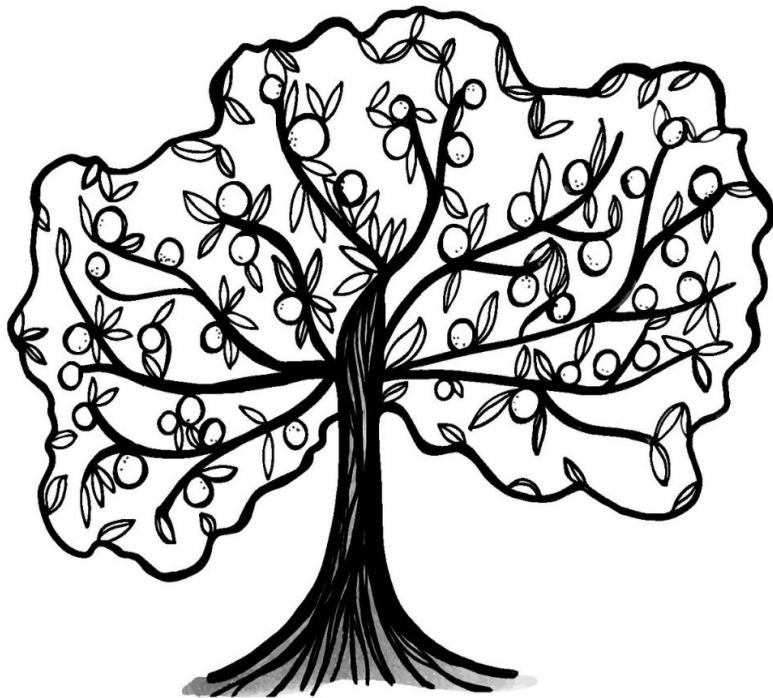


St. Paul Lutheran

Smithville



First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ELW 315**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***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. Lord God, our strength,

C: the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all 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.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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.”

^{3:1} 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’?” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ 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.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32

R: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**C: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

R: While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

R: Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**C: Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

R: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**C: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

R: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**C: Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

R: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² 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 ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

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 Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” ELW 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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: God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit to change. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all nations, lead this world away from sin and death. Bring peace to places of violence and truth where there is deception. Grant courage to those who work to make this world a vision of "your kingdom come." Give us a vision of life in eternity and stir in us a deep desire to enact it here. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way especially: Jamie, 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: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. For all who hunger for justice, come quickly.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

****Sharing of the Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Choir Anthem:

“God’s Grace”

© Communion Anthem Series Abingdon Press
Words by Lois Myers Emig and Isaac Watts
Music by Lois Myers Emig also quoting MARTYRDOM

***Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

C: **Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.**
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:

****The Lord's Prayer***

**C: Our Father in heaven,
holy is your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

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: “Here Is Bread” ELW 483

1. **Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here. *Refrain***

Refrain **In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.**

2. **Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here. *Refrain***

3. **Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here. *Refrain***

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin.
by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere
Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950, Music: Graham Kendrick

Communion Hymn: “Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song” ELW 808



1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - ly you saved by your love,



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931

Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus

Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

*Post Communion Blessing

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

****Dismissal***

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Your Prayers Are Requested For:

***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: Pam Root

Reader: Tim Preston

Pianist: Joe Hennell

Communion Assistant: Lyn Miller

Altar Care: Kathy Meitzler

Ushers/Greeters: Steve & Nancy Carr

Bread Baker: Nancy Carr



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

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

February 25 – Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad and Dessert

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: Bring a meal to your neighbor.

*Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor: 803-673-1727
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Church Office: stpsmithville@gmail.com*