



FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

March 18, 2026

Joint Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Plankinton, SD

Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor

Special Order of Service

WELCOME in the name of Jesus our Savior Who calls us to share His grace and glory!

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, You have called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light by the power of Your Spirit working through Your Word. You have instilled faith within our hearts and imputed to us the righteousness of Your Son, Jesus. We now stand before You not as the sinners we are, but the saints You have declared us to be. Help us to worship You this evening in Spirit and in truth, to grow in our understanding of Your Word, and finally to increase our desire to serve You always with faithfulness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

431 Not All the Blood of Beasts



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. | Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591 | Text and tune: Public domain

The Order of Vespers

Please stand.

- P** O Lord, open my lips.
- C** **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.
- C** **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 43

¹Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people,
from the deceitful and unjust man
deliver me!

²For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you rejected me?
Why do I go about mourning
because of the oppression of the enemy?

³Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!

⁴Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.

You may be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 1:1–20

¹The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

²Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken:
“Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.

³The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.”

⁴Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are utterly estranged.

⁵Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel?
The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

⁶From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores and raw wounds;
they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.

⁷Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence foreigners devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

⁸And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.

⁹If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors,
we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!

Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

¹²“When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you this trampling of my courts?

¹³Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.

¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,
¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
²⁰but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–14

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Please stand.

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:66–72

⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to

the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” ⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Scripture Responses

- P** We have been in the courtyard just as Peter was. Opportunities presented themselves to witness to our faith, and like Peter, we were silent.
- C** **We fear what people will think—that we are fanatics, that we are somehow different. We are different, aren’t we, Lord? And yet we hesitate.**
- P** We hesitate because we don’t know what to say. What if we don’t say it correctly or we come on too strong? What if they don’t agree?
- C** **We forget to put our trust in you and let your words become our words.**
- P** And sometimes our witness is lost because our lives speak louder than our words, and no one would guess that we are Your followers.
- C** **At other times our words get in the way of Your word, for we speak angry words or foul words or hurtful words, and then no one will hear the Word of life from our lips.**
- P** This is why we are here tonight, O God. We need to be renewed for witness.
- C** **Save us, O God. Open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise!**

Apostles’ Creed

- C** **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.

You may be seated for the sermon hymn.

688 “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake



1 “Come, fol - low Me,” the Sav - ior spake, “All in My
 2 “I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
 3 “My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
 4 “I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
 5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your - selves, the world for - sake,
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
 love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex - press,
 soul’s sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - ’ry guile to free,
 cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 With meek - ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
 From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 In suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e’er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
 well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
 strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
 of the soul And lead you to your heav’n - ly goal.”
 bat - tle’s strain The crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695
 Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt. | Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon “From Saul to Paul”

Acts 9:1–20

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this

man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.
 2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.
 3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.
 4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom - ise bright - ly shine,
 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.
 Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.
 Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.
 Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.
 Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007 | Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
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Offering

Hymn while offering is brought forward. Please stand.

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

sts. 1-2



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97 | Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 | Text and tune: Public domain

The Prayers

Lord's Prayer

162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

Benediction

P 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.

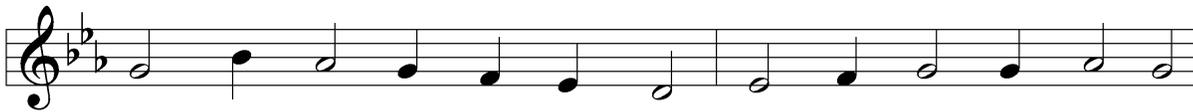
C Amen.

You may be seated for our closing hymn.

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

5 If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt. | Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615 | Text and tune: Public domain

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