

AGAIN I RESUME THE LONG
LESSON: HOW SMALL A THING
CAN BE PLEASING, HOW LITTLE
IN THIS HARD WORLD IT TAKES
TO SATISFY THE MIND
AND BRING IT TO ITS REST.

+ WENDELL BERRY

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
9:00 A.M.

Order of Worship

The Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026 † 9:00 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Concerns

Confession and Forgiveness

Oh God, who sees and knows us, we confess together:

We look around this world and see uncertainty, chaos, distrust, and even anger as we, your creation, turn away from the grace, mercy, and love that you so freely give. Even as we try to trust in this grace, mercy, and love, we are filled with doubt. We have not loved our neighbors as you command. We have not seen your creation as something to protect. We have not loved and cared for ourselves as your beloved children. Forgive us for turning away from your call to trust and to find quiet in you.

Hear this forgiveness for you today: The God who created you and loves you knows your doubt, knows your questions, and will bring you to a place of trust and peace. Today, may you rest in the promise of true grace and peace from the One who raised Christ from the dead and now dwells in you.

Gathering Song

“Rest On Us“

As the Spirit was moving over the water.

Spirit come move over us.

Come rest on us come rest on us *(Repeat)*

Chorus

Come down Spirit when You move. You make my heart pound,
when You fill the room. You're here and I know You are moving.

I'm here and I know You will fill me.

Fire and wind come and do it again.

Open up the gates let Heaven on in

Come rest on us. Come rest on us. *(Repeat)*

Bridge

Holy Spirit, come rest on us. You're all we want. You're all we want. *(Repeat)*

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Creator and comforter, you brought us into being to take part in the goodness you created. We struggle with our own desires and questions, yet you open your arms with forgiveness and grace. Draw us to creating the unity and hope that is your plan for the world in the name of 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 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (Read Responsively)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 3:1-17

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

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.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Song

“Here and Now”

Solo

¹Perhaps you have come down a well traveled road
Bringing your hopes and your questions untold
Or maybe you’re holding too heavy a load
O come, just as you are.

Refrain (All)

Here we are, on this sacred ground.
Heaven dwells among us here and now.

Congregation

⁵The Spirit is blowing wherever she will,
stirring our hearts, heaven's call to fulfill.
May we be a beacon of light on a hill
to shine just where we are. (*Refrain*)

Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved, your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died
and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship You.**

**from A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you!

Offering

Offering Music

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. 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer.

Communion Liturgy

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

God of quiet, God of chaos. You meet us where we are, coming to us in the waters of baptism, and the bread and wine as we gather at the Table. God of peace and God of unity, you meet us in the community of this Table, over and over offering forgiveness and mercy. As we pilgrimage toward the hill and the cross, we trust in the promises given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the night...

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.

A member of our prayer team will be available during communion distribution for individual and private prayer. Please meet them at the prayer room to the right of the sanctuary.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction

Sending Song

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

(hymn) 335

¹Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

²Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

³Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

⁴Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace! Share Christ's love, with Joy!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Welcome & Thank You!

**Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Paul Lutheran today,
where it is our mission *"To Share Christ's Love, With Joy!"***

We aim for your time with us to be both enriching and spiritually fulfilling. If you're new, please feel free to introduce yourself to the pastors and fellow worshippers. We value the opportunity to connect with you and hope to see you again soon. At St. Paul Lutheran, everyone is sincerely welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Should you require a gluten-free option, simply inform the pastor when you approach. Worshipers are encouraged to bring a bible to worship. If one is needed there are bibles available in the prayer room in the rear corner of the sanctuary. Additionally, gender-neutral restrooms are accessible in our education/preschool wing, ensuring a comfortable experience for all.

We look forward to seeing you again!

Thank You To Those Involved in Worship Leading!

Pastors:	Dale & Carrie Stiles
Worship Assistant:	Christina Fashner
Usher:	Bruce Spangler
Greeter:	Frank & Katie Edwards
Prayer Corner:	Rosie Quale
Organist:	Jeanne Richards
Accompanist:	Kim Clark
Tech Team:	Chris Timmons
Altar Guild:	Amy Buccanero
Counters:	Karen Rozeske, Kathie Marabella

Today we welcome our new member Charlie Anderson. Please join us in welcoming Charlie to our congregation.

Refreshments today are provided by Frank & Katie Edwards. The refreshment sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

Please keep in your prayers this week: Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Ruth Koehly, Jean Enrooth, Josie Peterson, John & Darla Peterson, Allan DeWolf, Lois (friend of Janelle Albee), Kathy (sister of Ron Rozeske), Julie (family of Pat Miska), Mick Byl, Wendy Krona, Emmett Fetterly, Charlie Maeckelbergh, Connor Fraley, Mike (Sally Liljedahl uncle), Lacey Sperling, Aspen Indihar, Waylon Buccanero, Rosemary (food truck), Jeremy and all who serve in the military, Shelby, Tom and all law enforcement.

Women's Retreat at Carole England's Cabin – Cushing, WI, Saturday, April 11. Join us for a day of fellowship and renewal at Carole and Steve England's cabin in Cushing, Wisconsin. We will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Our theme for the day is "I Am Among the Trees." Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the narthex.

Midweek Lenten Worship—Join us each Wednesday during Lent for a time of fellowship, reflection, and prayer. We begin with a simple soup supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by Evening Vespers worship at 6:30 p.m.

West of 55—Join us on March 17, from 11:00-1:00 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our annual potluck and trivia! Bring a dish to share, test your trivia skills, and don't forget to wear green!

First Communion. At St. Paul Lutheran, there is no set age for a child to receive Holy Communion. Parents are encouraged to prayerfully discern when the time is right for their child. If you have questions about First Communion or the preparation classes, please contact Pastor Carrie for more information. First Communion classes will be held March 22 and March 29 following worship. First Communion will be celebrated during Maundy Thursday worship on April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Retreat



Join us for our Youth Retreat at Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp, March 27–28. This retreat is open to all youth in 7th grade and older. Cost is \$65 per youth. Please see Pastor Carrie for a permission form and additional details.



“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.” — Isaiah 14:7

Lent is a season of reflection and renewal as the days lengthen and we prepare for Easter. This year’s theme, **“Sabbath Is ...,”** invites us to explore what it means to stop, rest, and make space for what matters most. Drawing on Scripture and the poetry of Wendell Berry, we will reflect on these weekly themes: *Sabbath Is ... Prayer, Quiet, Questions, Living Water, Healing, Lament, Praise, Service, and Joy.*

Soup Suppers - 5:30 p.m. | Holden Evening Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

Week Two, March 1—Sabbath Is ... *Questions*
Week Three, March 8—Sabbath Is ... *Living Water*
Week Four, March 15—Sabbath Is ... *Healing*
Week Five, March 22—Sabbath Is ... *Lament*
Week Six, Palm Sunday, March 29—Sabbath Is ... *Praise*
Maundy Thursday, April 2—Sabbath Is ... *Service*
Good Friday, April 3—Sabbath Is ...
Easter Sunday, April 5—Sabbath Is ... *Joy!*

Weekly Financial Stewardship Update

2026 General Fund Offering Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Giving
YTD Totals	\$31,903.85	\$35,354.95	\$(3,451.10)
2026 Total Revenue Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Revenue
YTD Totals	\$40,892.43	\$43,271.64	\$(2,379.21)



The Week Ahead

at St. Paul Lutheran

Sunday, March 1

Worship, 9:00 a.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 2

Safety Team Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3

Adult Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.
Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4

Lent Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Evening Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8

Worship, 9:00 a.m.
Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

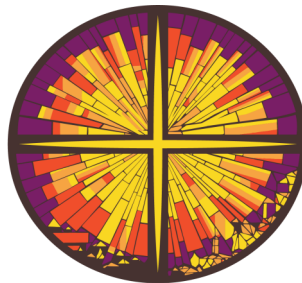
Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12, New Member Reception
Sunday, April 19, Tanzania Sunday
Sunday, April 19, Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, April 26, Jubilee Sunday—Freed For the Future!

Wendell Berry, **“Again I Resume the Long Lesson”**
(1999) from *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems*

*Again I resume the long lesson:
how small a thing can be pleasing,
how little in this hard world it takes
to satisfy the mind, and bring it to its rest.*

*Within the ongoing havoc
the woods this morning is
almost unnaturally still.
Through stalled air, unshadowed light,
a few leaves fall
of their own weight.*

*The sky is gray.
It begins in mist
almost at the ground
and rises forever.
The trees rise in silence,
Almost natural, but not quite,
almost eternal, but not quite.*



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
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SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

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