



First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026 Blended Setting 3 10:45

Prelude Handbells "Were You There"

As We Gather

Like Job, we have three choices when something catastrophic happens. We can let it destroy us. We can let it define us. Or we can let it develop us. Today we learn how suffering can develop us and it all begins with one act - surrender.

Welcome

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP +

Opening Song "Your Will Be Done"

We call upon you Father
We're here as sons and daughters
Spirit speak the words we cannot say
In the name of Jesus
With those who've gone before us
We echo what you've given us to pray

Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven

Though our hands are empty
We trust there's nothing missing
Your faithfulness behind us is the proof
Knowing you are for us
We're standing on your promise
Whatever happens has to end in good

Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven

Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Your will be done your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven

Invocation

P We begin our worship this day in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 32:1–7

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and confess our sins unto God our Father, that we may receive His forgiveness.

C **O God, we believe Your Word is true for it reveals our sin for which we deserve Your rebuke and judgment. Yet even more, we believe in Your promise of mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Christ. We therefore confess to You all our sins. We plead the suffering and sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the all-sufficient price of our redemption, and beg Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of faith in our Savior alone. Hear us in Your mercy and according to Your promise in Christ, our Lord.**

P "Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge," upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, when Adam as parent of us all chose sin and its death, You did not condemn the people You had made but sent forth the promise of a new Adam, Jesus Christ, Your Son, to resist the lies of the evil one and earn a righteousness great enough to be given to all people in His name. Help us to abide in Christ and in His strength before the temptations of the devil; in the holy name of Jesus do we pray.

C **Amen.**

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

Old Testament

Job 1:13–22

¹³Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵and the

Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁶While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁷While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” ¹⁸While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

²⁰Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

²²In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought

condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall

you serve.”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.**

Children's Song "This Little Gospel Light"

This Little Gospel Light of Mine
I'm going to let it shine:
This little Gospel light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine;
This little Gospel Light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine.
All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine all the time, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine all the time, let it shine

Text: traditional

Text: Public domain

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "Christ the Life of All the Living" LSB 420 vs 1-4

Christ, the life of all the living,

Christ, the death of death, our foe,

Who, Thyself for me once giving

To the darkest depths of woe:

Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit

I eternal life inherit.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee

Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;

Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,

O Thou sinless Son of God!

Thus didst Thou my soul deliver

From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only

That my wounds might all be whole;

Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,

Rest to give my weary soul;

Yea, the curse of God enduring,

Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis
Text: Public domain

Message "Why? Sweet Surrender" Job 1:13-22

Prayer of the Church

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the eyes to see, ears to hear, and faith to believe Christ is the glory of the Father who has accomplished salvation by fulfilling the Law and the prophets for us; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For the pastors who preach the glory of the cross and the church workers who serve us in Christ's name and for those preparing for church work; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For those afflicted in mind or body, those bearing the pain of grief or loss, and for the dying, *Don Loudenback, John Haubold, Jan Peterson, Dennis Erler, Cindy Maxwell, Armando Florez, Ami Gray, Teo McDonald, Doug Ebersol, Drake Williams, Joe Kuzma, Nilsa Colas, David Glass, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Cythina Estes Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* and for comfort, peace, healing, and faith to sustain them in their trouble; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee and staff. Grant grace and patience to all in our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You appointed to shepherd us. Lord, in Your mercy, Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Deed & Sandi Cimperman, Ed, Carrie, Layla, Ava, Forrest Clark, John, Marykay, Lizzie Dagg, Doug & Judy Dalrymple. Bless the children of our CLC Stella, Alex, Briggs, Dawson, Shelby, Felicity, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people, Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Mary Rosenboom

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, Lord God, heavenly King, for the grace You have shown to all creation in sending a Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. To the condemned, He speaks: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise," and we truly taste His Word fulfilled among us as He gathers us around His life-giving body and blood. Help us to partake of this heavenly feast in sincerity and truth, looking forward to the royal banquet that awaits as the faithful are gathered by Christ, the Lamb, in the midst of the throne, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Song of Sacrifice "Lamb of God" SSP 13

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you break the chains of hatred and fear;
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you are the way of justice and peace:
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you are the way of mercy and love:
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Marty Haugen

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Distribution Hymn "He Will Hold Me Fast" SSP 94

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Text: Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker; Jonathan Smith | Mia Fieldes | Zach Williams

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Distribution Song "Christ the Life of All the Living" LSB 420 vs 5-7

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:
Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented

That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis
Text: Public domain

Hymn "Lord, Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread" LSB 725

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
Text: Public domain

Song of Blessing "Thanks be to You" SSP 14

Praise to you, O God of mercy!
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to you forever!

From of old you loved and sought us!
Thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us:
Thanks be to you forever!

Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

Praise to you, O God of mercy!
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Text: Marty Haugen

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Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O gracious God, we give You thanks for having fed and nourished us by Your Word of life and the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us Your Spirit so that our lives may reflect your holiness as an outgrowth of your grace. Since we received this gift from those who came before us, give us the will and desire to faithfully pass on this sacred treasure to those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

A The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who created us; the ✠ Son, who redeemed us; and the Holy Spirit, who has bestowed faith on us—be with You, today and always.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn "His Mercy is More" SSP 95

What love could remember
no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing
He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea
without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

What patience would wait
as we constantly roam
What Father so tender
is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest
the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

What riches of kindness
He lavished on us
His blood was the payment
His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt

we could never afford
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness
new every morn
Our sins they are many
His mercy is more

Text: Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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