



This series explores the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior Jesus, particularly as these prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Week passion, death, and resurrection.

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026

The Order of Service

Instructions for the Beginning of Lent

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Confession of Sins

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Absolution

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(Spoken)* Amen.

Congregation Hymn

“Before You, God, the Judge of All”

Christian Worship (21) Hymn #655



1 Be - fore you, God, the judge of all, with grief and shame I
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: O cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let your pre-cious blood be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
 wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
 cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



my sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
 but let him draw to you my heart that tru - ly
 but grant that jus - ti - fied I may go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
 house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

The Old Testament Lesson..... Isaiah 59:12-20

Isaiah repents for the sins of the nation of Israel. Since every human is sinful, no one is able to save themselves or anyone else. God, therefore, takes it upon himself to save mankind. If people, however, insist on continuing in their sins and refuse to repent, they forfeit their redemption.

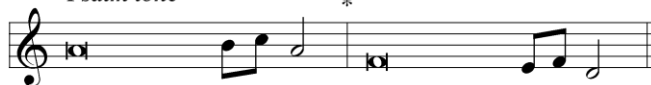
¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. ¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. ¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, men will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the Lord drives along. ²⁰ "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the Lord.

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Congregation Hymn

“Jesus Sinners Does Receive”
Christian Worship (21) #654, verses 1-2,5-6



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace, from the law I



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
my trans - gres - sion, it shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ has pur - chased my re - lease



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
by your blood and bit - ter pas - sion, for these words I
and my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
do be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

The Sermon

Zechariah 1:1-6

Return to Me!

^{1:1} In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: ² “The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. ³ Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty. ⁴ Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil

ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. ⁵ Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶ But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors? “Then they repented and said, ‘The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’”

The Offering & Offering Prayer

As the offering is gathered, we invite everyone to sign the Friendship Registers in each pew.

Please Rise

The Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

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

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Please be Seated

Distribution of the Lord’s Supper

Today we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is a miracle. By God’s power, the Lord’s body and blood are with the bread and wine. In the Lord’s Supper, God gives strength and comfort to His believers. While the Lord’s Supper is first about our relationship with Jesus, it is also about our relationship with fellow believers. Therefore, we practice “close communion.” We invite all who are members of St. Paul’s or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord’s Supper with us. If you would like to learn more about being a member of our family at St. Paul’s, please feel free to contact the pastor.

Distribution Hymn

“Lord, to You I Make Confession”
Christian Worship (21) Hymn #653



1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
2 Yet, though con-science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, giv'n him - self to
4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— sink it in the



gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied trans-gres - sion,
seek your face. Though your child I dare not call me,
res - cue me, died to save me and re - store me,
deep - est sea! Let me know your gra - cious par - don,



cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by you to
yet re - ceive me to your grace. Do not for my
rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
sins for - sake me, do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
lone can van - quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
leave me nev - er, make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Please Rise

“Thank the Lord”

Christian Worship page 36



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Closing Prayer

Christian Worship page 36

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The Benediction

Christian Worship page 37

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

The Closing Hymn

There Is a Redeemer Christian Worship (21) Hymn #519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in_ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Worship Participants

Preacher/Liturgy

Pastor Brian Adams

Pianist

Mrs. Rachel Manske

Junior Choir

Mrs. Rachel Manske and Ms. Heather Schmidt, Directors
5-8 grade students of St. Paul's School