



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 1, 2026 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany



Jesus Calls You Blessed

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a **Family Room** located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. **Busy bags** are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

Prayer before worship: Lord of glory, as the light of your star once led the wise men to Jesus, so the light of your Word has led us to see Jesus. Let your Word so shine in our hearts by your Spirit that each day we see Christ at the center of all we do. With him let us find comfort from sorrows, forgiveness from sins, and rest from turmoil. In his name, cause us to do good to others, to reveal him to the lost, and to praise your holy name. Amen.

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

CW 867

The world might not call us blessed, but Jesus' strength is with us all our days, so we truly are blessed!



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



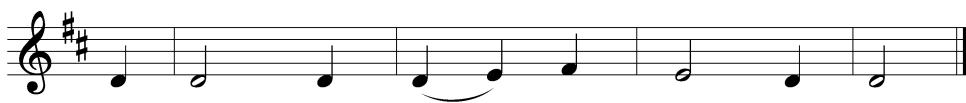
lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



Refrain
So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960
Text and tune: © 2018 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. Integrity Music. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715833

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11–13

The Lord promises that those who trust in him will not be put to shame.

³Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.

¹In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill. ²But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. ³The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1B How Truly Blest Are They

Psalm 1B

1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the
2 But make the law of God their stud - y
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters
4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such

sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
and de - light a - mid the la - bors
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their
bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like

nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,
of the day and watch - es of the night.
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.
emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.

5 How will they bear to stand

before that judgment seat

where all the saints at Christ's right hand

in full assembly meet?

6 God knows and he approves

the way the righteous go,

but sinners and their works shall meet

a dreadful overthrow.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

God changes how we view ourselves by connecting us to Christ Jesus.

²⁶For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1st Grade Bible Presentation

Children's Devotion

Bless You!

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3

P: Alleluia! Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the ideas of the world upside-down.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things.

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Blest Are They

CW 690

We rejoice that those who are invisible to the world, are blessed by Christ's holy presence.



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it, theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones, ____ they shall in -
3 Blest are they ____ who show mer - cy, mer - cy
4 Blest are they ____ who seek peace, ____ they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate ____ all ____ be -



king - dom of God. Blest ____ are they, ____
her - it the earth. Blest ____ are they who
shall ____ be theirs. Blest ____ are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest ____ are they who
cause ____ of me. Re - joice and be glad, ____



full ____ of sor - row, they ____ shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst, ____ they ____ shall have their fill.
pure ____ of heart, ____ they ____ shall see God!
suf - fer in faith, ____ the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; ____ shine ____ for all to see.



Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are



you, ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

The Blessed Life: A Tale of Two Trees

Questions to consider during the sermon:

- 1) Discuss the connection between posture and planting.
- 2) What do we learn about “meditation” from the verbs here?
- 3) How do roots and fruits relate to each other?
- 4) Are there really only two kinds of trees? Why/why not?
- 5) Which type of tree does your life resemble more?
- 6) Why is this Psalm the perfect place to begin the book?

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Offering

To our guests: Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.

NOTE: At this time we are not passing the offering plates. You can place your offering in the plate in the Gathering Area as you leave today.

Prayer of the Church

P: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

P: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

P: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

P: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

P: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

P: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

His Robes for Mine

CW 568

Clothed in Christ's righteous robes, we are blessed as we face any trouble or trial the world throws at us.



1 His robes for mine: O won - der - ful ex - change!
2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
3 His robes for mine: God's jus - tice is ap - peased.
4 His robes for mine: such an - guish none can know.



Clothed in my sin, Christ suf - fered 'neath God's rage.
God's daunt-ing law Christ mas - tered in my stead.
Je - sus is crushed, and thus the Fa - ther's pleased.
Christ, God's be - loved, con - demned as though his foe.



Draped in his right - eous - ness, I'm jus - ti - fied.
Fault - less I stand with right - eous works not mine,
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "Tis done!"
He, as though I, ac - cursed and left a - lone;



In Christ I live, for in my place he died.
saved by my Lord's vi - car - ious death and life.
Sin's wage is paid, pro - pi - ti - a - tion won.
I, as though he, em - braced and wel - comed home!



I cling to Christ, and mar - vel at the cost:



Je - sus for - sak - en, God es - tranged from God.



Bought by such love, my life is not my own.



My praise— my all— shall be for Christ a - lone.

P: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Blessing

P: 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: Amen.

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

CW 816

We trust in the Lord who calls us—and makes us—truly blessed in every circumstance of life.



5 I am trusting you for power;
you can never fail.

Words which you yourself shall give me
must prevail.

6 I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
never let me fall.

I am trusting you forever
and for all.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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+ Ministry Notes +

Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we **grow** in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today our adult Bible study will meet in the Fellowship Hall to begin a new study led by Pastor James (see the ministry note below for more details), BIC will meet in the choir area of the sanctuary for their next lesson, and Sunday school for the children will be at the same time as both.

Bible Study Series – Sermon Time Well-Spent

"I didn't get anything out of that sermon." Have we all thought that at some point? Probably. Is that good? Nope, definitely not ideal. So let's do something about it--or rather, let's have God work through his Word to do something about that and make our **SERMON TIME WELL-SPENT!** What is a five-star sermon? How is the sermon sausage made? What about when a sermon puts us to sleep? Are we remembering our sermon doggie bags? Coming this **February**, we will talk all things sermon in our next Sunday morning adult Bible study series!



Growth Group Starting Again

This **Saturday morning** at **10 AM** (2-7) the **Women's Growth Group** will begin to meet at Sharon Welfel's house, discussing the sermon from the previous Sunday. If interested in joining, please speak with Sharon Welfel or Cindy Lendt.

Lent Is Coming

On **February 18th** we will have a special Ash Wednesday service focused on confession and forgiveness at **6 PM**. Please join us as we meditate on how Jesus provides **Exactly What I Need** (our sermon series for that evening and the Sundays in Lent). The schedule of the themes is listed below:



- (Wed) Feb. 18 – Forgiveness
- Feb. 22 – A Champion
- March 1 – Faith
- March 8 – Water
- March 15 – Sight
- March 22 – Life

Midweek Meal and Meditations

Following the pattern we began last year, for the following midweek Lent services (**February 25-March 25**), we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a meal. These services will go through the articles of the Apostles' Creed and several prophecies from Zechariah that show how in Christ **It Is Finished**. Pastor Luke Miller from Abiding Hope in Ocala will join our pastors for a preaching rotation. Those who would like to help plan and provide those meals may use the signup sheet in the gathering area (In case you'd prefer not to host a meal for 40-50 people solo, two or three families are encouraged to team up).



Wine and Cheese Night



On **Saturday, February 21**, St. Paul's FEAT (Fellowship Event Action Team) will be hosting a wine and cheese night. The event itself will be **21+**, there may be childcare available (for children **2+**), if there is enough interest in that option. Please indicate that interest as well as how many will be attending on the signup sheet in the gathering area.

Mow, Mow, Mow (Y)our Lawn

We are looking for volunteers to help assist with the lawn mowing rotation. During the winter months we will only need to mow about once each month, but during the summer it's much more frequent. If you would like to participate and help out, please call the main office.

Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2

ATTENDANCE: 124

PREACHER: Tim Rosenow

ACCOMPANIST: Cindy Lentdt

USHERS: Dan Cerney and Newton Trimmer **FLOWERS:** Vivian Gennett

OFFERING: \$4,852

PRESIDING MINISTER: James Saatkamp

STREAMING: Tony Moore

Let's pray this week!

birthdays | **Terry Montag** (2-1); **Lisa Stetz** (2-2); **Karen Hartman** (2-6)

anniversaries | (None this week)

homebound members | **Dave Brandt, Bee Grunig, John Hambel, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo, and Paula Vitolo**

health | **Linda Bond** (continue recovery); **Tom Colwell** (recovering from surgery); **James Dykes** (recovering from surgery, son-in-law of Mike & Lynn Young); **Naomi Kohrs** (daughter of Jim and Nancy, hospitalized); **Rick Robinson** (continued recovery); **Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock** (Barbara's daughter), and **Kathy's daughters** (genetic health issues); **Nancy Scruton** (recovering from medical procedure)

divine call | **Cindy Lentdt** (Asia-Oceania Team, Women's Ministry Coordinator *new position*)

Serving in worship next week

Streaming: 2/8 Josh Plum

Ushers: 2/8 Bill Hoeltke and Bruce Salzmann

This Week | February 1st – 7th

TODAY – 1st grade Bible Presentation; BIC after the service

FEB 2-12 – Food Drive for Citrus County Blessings

WED – Isaiah Bible study 10 AM

THU – Choir 6:30 PM

FRI – Chapel 8:30 AM; PreK Chapel 12:30 PM

SAT - *NEW* Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM (@ Sharon Welfel's house)

Upcoming Events

February 9-17 – Pastor Tim on vacation

February 12 – Early dismissal & Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 13 – NO SCHOOL (Teacher Inservice)

February 16 – NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)

Who We Are

(Our Mission)

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. Like any family, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses. We experience successes and we experience struggles. These are the things which unite us. For we know that we aren't perfect, but our Heavenly Father is; and he has loved us with a perfect love, sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. With that same love, he comes to us through his Word, the Bible, to equip us and encourage us as we live in a world which can leave us feeling discouraged and hopeless at times. So, as a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. We want as many people as possible to know the joy and hope which we have as members of God's family.*

If you would like to learn more about our church family or the ministries we offer through our church, school, and preschool, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.

Thank you for being a part of our church family today!



St. Paul's Lutheran
Church and School
Precious Lambs Preschool

6150 N Lecanto Hwy
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
352.489.3027
www.stpauls.edu
office@stpauls.edu

Sunday worship: 9:30 AM
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 minutes after



OUR STAFF

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Dave Goddard *Principal*

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Sharon Welfel *Preschool director*

Sharon.Welfel@stpaulsk8school.org 352.462.1814

Becky Ramsey *Preschool teacher*

Lucy Siegler *Kindergarten teacher*

Hannah Foley *1st grade teacher*

Cindy Lendt *2nd grade teacher*

Lindsey Klingenschmitt *3rd and 4th grade teacher*

Noah Uhlenbrauck *5th and 6th grade teacher*

Justin Siegler *7th and 8th grade teacher*

Dorothy Draeger *Administrative assistant*