

# *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*



ASH WEDNESDAY  
7:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 14

*Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister*  
*Rita Jordan, Organist*

*408 S. Davidson Street | Karnes City, TX 78118*  
*Office (830) 780-2251    Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793*  
*[www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org](http://www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org)*  
*[www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity)*

# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

*The assembly stands.*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## LENTEN LITANY

Ever-present God, with dry land, a rainbow and a word, you established your covenant with Noah, promising new life to all creation;

**"Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love";**

With a new name and a future of hope, you established your covenant with Abraham and claimed him as your own;

**"Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love";**

With manna from skies and water from stones, you led your people from slavery to freedom, marking your promise to them, that they would be your covenant people, and you, their refuge;

**"Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love";**

Through the prophets, you called your people to new relationship with you, establishing a renewed covenant through your servant Jeremiah: "I will be their God, and they shall be my people";

**"Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love";**

You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, that in his life, death and resurrection, your covenant with all creation may be established for all time, that from generation to generation, all may proclaim the blessings of your coming reign;

**"Return to the Lord, your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love";**

Dry land, a name, deliverance, renewal, resurrection – through these gifts, O gracious God, you establish your covenant with us and our ancestors. Bless the gifts we offer our neighbors, that all may share in the abundant, steadfast love that draws us near to you.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.**

**Dios misericordioso, de tu amor y misericordia respiraste en el polvo el aliento de la vida, creando nosotros para servirte a ti y a nuestros vecinos. Llama a nuestras oraciones y actos de bondad, y fortalecenos para enfrentar nuestra mortalidad con confianza en la misericordia de tu hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
    and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51:1-17**

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

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice. R**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:1

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*



## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Glory to You, O Lord!

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Arden Dorn**

*The assembly stands.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**(ELW p. 793)**

***Be Thou My Vision***

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

*The assembly is seated.*

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.  
*The assembly shall kneel as they are able.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**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.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.  
Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.**

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

**Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

People of God, look to the + Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**Amen.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly comes forward and kneels or stands to receive the ashes.*

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Turn our lives toward you in repentance. Turn our hearts toward our neighbors in love. Turn our actions toward the world in mercy. Renew us in faith, in prayer, and in compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. Teach us to treasure the earth as your beloved creation. Send much needed rains to the many parched areas of this earth, especially South Africa, Somalia, India, Israel, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, the Dakotas, and parts of Arkansas. Provide plentiful and healthy homes for all creatures. Bring new life from decay. Repair what has been damaged from misuse or neglect. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Empower leaders to resist the use of power for personal gain or selfish interest. Teach us to build communities where all can live in safety and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. Protect those who are victimized by crime or injustice. Unburden those who are weighed down by guilt or shame. Assist those who are unemployed. Comfort those who mourn, and heal the sick especially Elvira, Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Matilda, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Justin, Ella, Jim, Charles, Eli, Casey, Steve, Marlane, Yvonne, Jackie, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our faith. Empower those who work in our community to provide food, shelter, and health care to those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died in faith. Bring us with them to the promise of unending life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY WORDS

(ELW p. 186)

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Barmherziger Gott, empfangen das Opfer unser Lob und Danksagung und das Angebot von unserem Leben, nach dem Weg des Kreuzes, können wir wissen, dass die Freude der Auferstehung; durch Christus, unseren Herrn.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

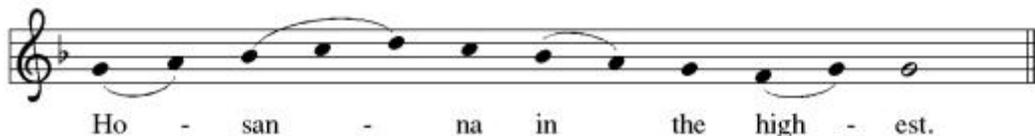
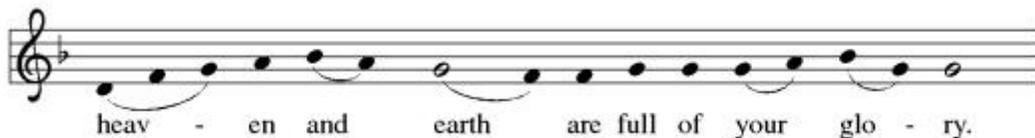
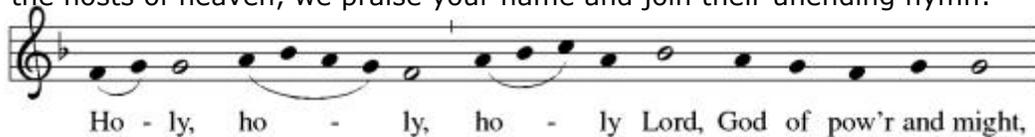
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

*The assembly is seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

*This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*Following Communion, the assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**DOXOLOGY**      **(ELW p. 884)**      ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

# Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

**A Nursery** is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

**If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance,** please signal an usher.

## For Prayerful Consideration

### ***Ill or Injured***

Elvira Boehm, Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Matilda Isaacks, Steve Kelly, Justin Lathrop, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Ella Manka, Jim Pearce, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Casey, Steve Scotten, Marlane Smith, Yvonne Watkins, Jackie Witte, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiantz, and Norma Zamzow.

### ***For those in the military***

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.