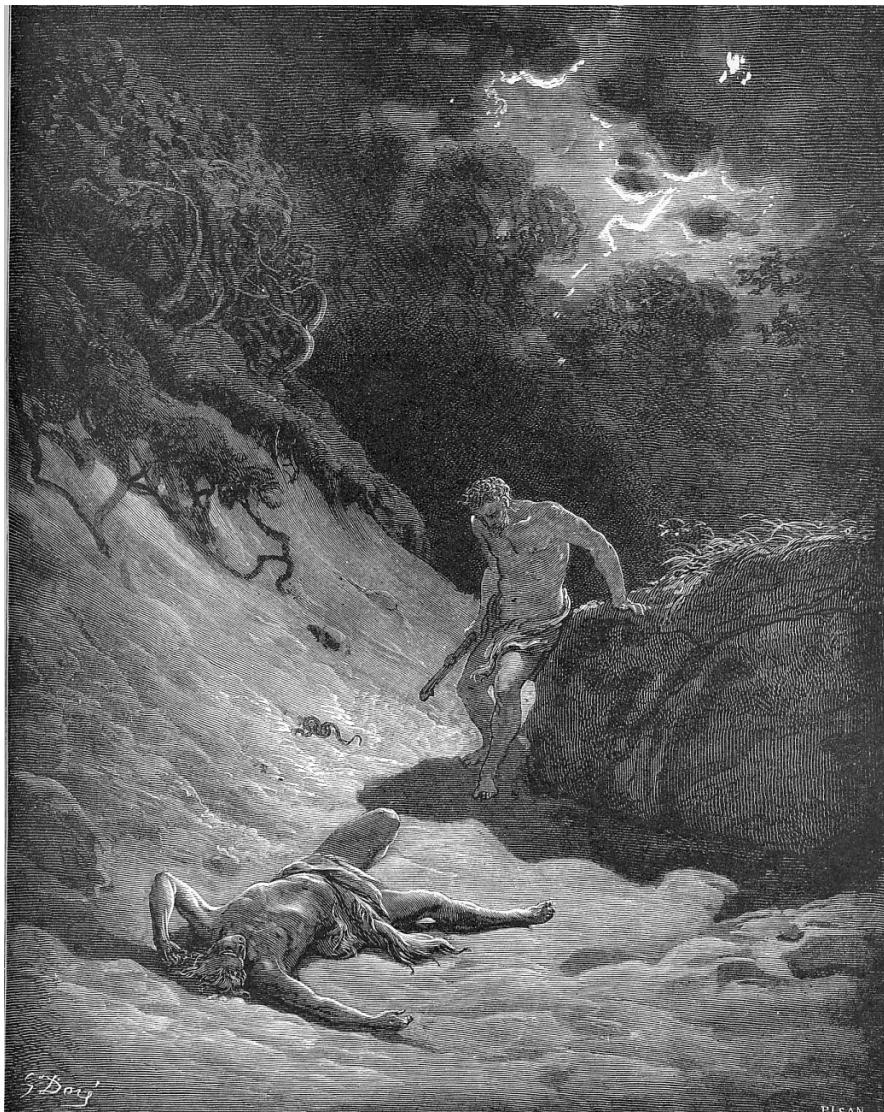


*So the last shall be first, and the first last.*



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Ogallala, NE*

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
+ Septuagesima Sunday +  
Church Office: 308-284-2944  
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Feb. 1, 2026  
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### **Hymn of Invocation: 761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

### **Confession and Absolution (pg. 184-185)**

### **Service of the Word (pg. 186-189)**

#### **Introit**

*Psalm 18:1–2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5–6a*

The cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

**In my distress I called upon the LORD.**  
**From his temple he heard my voice.**

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.

**For you save a humble people,**  
**but the haughty eyes you bring down.**

[You have] equipped me with strength  
and made my way blameless.

**For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,**  
**and sing to your name.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

In my distress I called upon the LORD.  
From his temple he heard my voice.

### **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 187*

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 17:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (Spoken Together)

*Psalm 9:9–10, 18–19a*

**The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.**

**And those who know your name put their trust in you,  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.  
For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.  
Arise, O LORD!  
Let not man prevail.**

## **Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 9:24—10:5*

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 20:1–16*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
- C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him,

‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’  
8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.  
10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

### 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

*sts. 1–5*

Sermon  
Offertory  
Offering  
Prayer of the Church  
Lord's Prayer

*LSB 192*

*LSB 196*

## Collect for the Word

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

<b>Salutation</b>	<i>LSB 201</i>
<b>Benedicamus</b>	<i>LSB 202</i>
<b>Benediction</b>	<i>LSB 202</i>

## **Hymn to Depart: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come**

*sts. 6–10*

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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**Welcome Visitors:** It is our joy and pleasure to welcome you to our worship. Our service is enriched by your presence, and we pray that you are blessed by attending. We invite you to join us each week, especially if you do not have a church home. If you are interested in learning more about the Lutheran Christian faith, please speak with Pastor. We ask all attending **members** to complete the attendance cards as it helps us track attendance for our computer records. Activity bags for families with young children are available in the back of the church along the wall. Please see an usher for a copy of a children's bulletin. Welcome and thank you for worshipping with us!

**JANUARY-MARCH - Portals of Prayer** are available.

**Remember in your prayers:** Luke Frosh, Raegan Roche, Doug Luedke, Karen Wuehler (Kevin Block's Aunt), Myra Walls, Linda Peters, John Rambat, Paul Orth-Indian Hills Manor, Ron Orr-North Platte Care Center

**Radio Ministry** - Today's broadcast is sponsored to the glory of God by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in grateful thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

**Lutherans for Life- February 1** "You may have a messy story. Your family may have a dysfunctional past. Your past (or present) may be filled with greed, sexual immorality, or other idols. But Jesus won't let that stop Him from reaching out to you with the message of His unconditional love. You might be far from good, but you are not too far gone for

God.” Pastor Mike Novotny, *Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Lutheran Hour- February 1** "Rotten Tomatoes" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler . Boasting gone wrong—it's the rotten fruit of rightful praise. It happens when we forget that everything we have is a gift, even the things we think we've earned and deserved. 1 Corinthians 1: 30-31 Lexington 104.5 FM-10:30am (CT). North Platte's Christian KJLT 970 AM- Sun. at 2:00 pm (CT)

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry- February 1 – (Septuagesima)**

Matthew 20:9 – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.” Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God’s being is His generosity.

**February 1 - February 7**

Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	Adult Bible Study
	9:30 am	Teen Bible Study
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Tie the Knot
Wednesday	8:15 am	Chapel
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Wednesday Night Service
Thursday	9:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 pm	School Board Meeting
Friday		No School-Office Closed

Beginning **February 22**, the Adult Bible Class will begin a new series exploring the Catechism through the lens of the liturgy. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Do you know a family with a child ages 3–5 who may be interested in preschool or kindergarten? Please help spread the word about our Preschool/Kindergarten Open House on Tuesday, February 17th, from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Families are invited to come meet our teachers, tour our classrooms, and learn more about St. Paul’s Lutheran School and our excellent Christ-centered education. All interested families are welcome!

From Martin Luther's Sermon for  
Septuagesima Sunday  
Matthew 20:1-16

4. Hence the substance of the parable in today's Gospel consists not in the penny, what it is, nor in the different hours; but in earning and acquiring, or how one can earn the penny; that as here the first presumed to obtain the penny and even more by their own merit, and yet the last received the same amount because of the goodness of the householder. Thus God will show it is nothing but mercy that He gives and no one is to abrogate to himself more than another. Therefore He says, "I do thee no wrong, is not the money mine and not thine; if I had given away thy property, then thou wouldest have reason to murmur; is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own?"

14. Hence the substance of this Gospel is that no mortal is so high, nor will ever ascend so high, who will not have occasion to fear that he may become the very lowest. On the other hand, no mortal lies so low or can fall so low, to whom the hope is not extended that he may become the highest; because here all human merit is abolished and God's goodness alone is praised, and it is decreed as on a festive occasion that the first shall be last and the last first. In that he says, "the first shall be last" he strips thee of all thy presumption and forbids thee to exalt thyself above the lowest outcast, even if thou wert like Abraham, David, Peter or Paul. However, in that He also says, "the last shall be first," he checks thee against all doubting, and forbids thee to humble thyself below any saint, even if thou wert Pilate, Herod, Sodom and Gomorrah.

*Cain Murders Abel* is from *The Doré Bible Gallery* (~1886). The quote is from *Luther's Church Postils* of 1905, which are available on audio CDs.

This bulletin cover is designed to accompany: *Crumbs – Short Devotions for Every Day of the Year* by Carl Manthey Zorn. These daily devotionals are available at [www.scholia.net](http://www.scholia.net) in both print form (free) and as an audio recording on CD.

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