



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
February 18, 2026  
7PM

The Prelude

Behold the Lamb of God from Handel's Messiah  
arr. D. Paxton

Welcome

**\*Greeting:**

Leader: Turn away from the calls of worldly success

**People: Repent, and turn back to God.**

Leader: Turn away from the desire to have what everyone else has

**People: Repent, and turn back to God.**

Leader: Turn away from greed and the race for power

**People: Repent, and turn back to God.**

Leader: As we enter Lent, may we turn back to God.

**People: May we seek forgiveness, may we seek healing, may we seek wholeness.**

Leader: May our hearts be renewed in this time of worship.

**\*Opening Prayer:**  
**We have gathered here, loving God, to mark the season of Lent, to begin the journey to the cross. We have gathered here to repent of our sins publicly and privately. We have gathered here to be in the presence of one another, where we can draw strength, knowing that wherever two or three of us are gathered, You are present among us. Guide us throughout these forty days as we journey deeper into Your embrace, and as we journey to the cross, let us put to death those things that separate us from each other and from you. May we know Your presence is always with us, the power of Your transformative love is within us, and may we know Your grace surrounds us and is beyond us. In the name of Jesus, our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn                      Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days                      No. 269**

**First Lesson: Psalm 103: 7-18**

**Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:2**

**Choir Anthem:I Come to the Cross by B. Bastone & B. Somma arr. J. Schrader**  
**Solo: Mark Holmes**

**\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6: 1-6**

**\*Hymn                      In the Garden                      No. 314**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Sermon                      “It’s Time”                      Pastor Mindi Gochnaur**

**Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison):**

**Wondrous God, we confess that we have not listened for your Word as we should. We confess that we have placed obstacles in the way of our neighbors. We are guilty of being proud and arrogant. Forgive us for our foolish and hateful ways. Forgive us for taking your amazing gift of grace for granted. Redirect us, by your Spirit, that we may be your faithful people once again. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**  
Pastor: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Turn toward your God in the confidence that, through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Holy Communion                      No. 15**

**Thanksgiving over the Ashes**

**Imposition of Ashes and Receiving Holy Communion**

**\*Closing Hymn                      I Surrender All                      No. 354**

**\*Sending Forth and Benediction**

**\*The Postlude                      Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley**  
**by H.S. Livingston Jr.**

**Serving in Worship Today**

**Greeter: Helen Oyer**  
**Worship Helpers: Addie Luzier, Madigan Weyant, Emma Wilson**