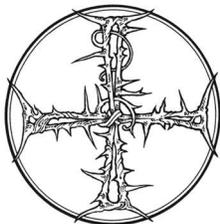


**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

Bestow upon us, O God, all that You ask of us, that in asking life of You we may be ready to share Your life, and the weight of it, which is Your love in Christ Jesus. Gather us all this Lent, O Lord, in Your embrace, that we may be formed into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



The First Sunday in Lent

Invocabit + February 22, 2026 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. What are you worth? To answer that question, we must first know what Jesus is worth, for He is the one whom God gave as our ransom. In today's Gospel reading, the devil poses several offers, yet none of them equal the value of Jesus and the mission the Father had given Him. Christ remains faithful, and in His faithfulness we see just how much God values the human race and all He has made.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

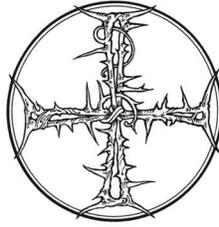
- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by the Schubring and McGivern families in loving memory of husband, father, and grandfather Larry Schubring who would have been 85 on February 26th.
- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season.
- The sponsor charts for 2026 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

Sermon Series:

What Are You Worth?

In your worthy and honorable Savior, Jesus, God secures for you an enduring value beyond all imagination. You are worth more than you do; more than your best qualities; more than all you possess; and more than your own life.

February 22:	What is Priceless?
March 1:	More than You
March 8:	More than His Family
March 15:	More than His Miracle
March 22:	More than His Nation
March 29:	More than His Life



PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ... Johann Nikolaus Hanff (1663-1711)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ... LSB #418

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home-stead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods . . .

[continued on the next page]

*[continued
from the pre-
vious page]*

*. . . that He
provides me
richly and
daily with all
that I need to
support this
body and life,
protects me
from all dan-
ger, and
guards me
and preserves
me from all
evil; and all
this out of
pure, father-
ly, divine
goodness and
mercy, with-
out any merit
or worthiness
in me; for all
which I owe it
to Him to
thank, praise,
serve, and
obey Him.
This is most
certainly
true.*

*~ The Small
Catechism*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand.

INTROIT

L: When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.

**C: With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.**

L: He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

**C: I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust."**

L: Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—

**C: no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.**

L: You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample
| underfoot.

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

L: When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.

C: **With long life I will sat- | isfy him***
and show him my sal- | vation.

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 3:1-21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So

*It is truly
good, right,
and salutary
that we
should at all
times and in
all places give
thanks to
You, holy
Lord, al-
mighty Fa-
ther, everlast-
ing God,
through Jesus
Christ, our
Lord, who
accomplished
the salvation
of mankind
by the tree of
the cross that,
where death
arose, there
life also might
rise again . . .*

when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother
of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife
garments of skins and clothed them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *Psalm 32*

L: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

C: **Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- |
iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

L: For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**

L: I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

C: **Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not | reach him.**

L: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

*. . . and that
the serpent
who overcame
by the tree of
the garden
might likewise
by the tree of
the cross be
overcome.
Therefore with
angels and
archangels and
with all the
company of
heaven we
laud and mag-
nify Your glo-
rious name,
evermore
praising You .*

*. . .
~ Proper Pref-
ace (spoken
by the Pastor
at Holy
Commun-
ion) during
Passiontide
(last two
weeks of
Lent)*

*In the movie
The Third
Man, Orson
Welles, who
is dealing in
lethal drugs
in postwar
Vienna, ex-
plains to his
friend as they
sit at the top
of a Ferris
wheel, look-
ing down at
the crowds far
below. Were
the money
good enough,
Welles asks,
would it real-
ly matter to
his friend,
would it real-
ly matter to
anyone, if
one, or two,
or three of
those anony-
mous specks
down there
simply disap-
peared? . . .*

**C: I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.**

L: Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay | near you.

**C: Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the
LORD.**

L: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

TRACT

L: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge.
When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,' and
"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan!

*... The
Christian
answer, of
course, is yes.
It matters
enormously,
it matters
infinitely.
Each one of
those specks
is a human
life of irreduc-
ible complexi-
ty and incal-
culable
worth. Each
one was seen
from the
cross, and for
each one he
died. Each is
destined from
eternity to
eternity and,
in the words
of Dante's
Paradiso,
each is em-
braced by
"the love that
moves the
sun and the
other stars."
~ Richard
John Neu-
haus, Death
on a Friday
Afternoon*

And 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 . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and delivered me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil . . .

For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

... LSB #656

SERMON

“What Is Priceless?”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . let us pray to the Lord,

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“Remember, O Thou Man” . . . Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1582-1635)

*Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember O thou man, thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can, therefore repent.*

*Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man!
Remember Adam's fall from heaven to hell!
Remember Adam's fall, how we were condemned all
In hell perpetual, there for to dwell.*

*Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man!
Remember God's goodness, and promise made!
Remember God's goodness; how he sent his Son, doubtless,
Our sins for to redress: be not afraid.*

--16th century English carol

Please stand.

*. . . not with
gold or silver,
but with His
holy, precious
blood and
with His in-
nocent suffer-
ing and
death, in or-
der that I may
be His own,
and live un-
der Him in
His kingdom,
and serve
Him in ever-
lasting right-
eousness, in-
nocence, and
blessedness,
even as He is
risen from the
dead, lives
and reigns to
all eternity.
This is most
certainly
true.
~ The Small
Catechism*

Almighty
 Lord Jesus
 Christ, source
 of life and
 immortality,
 as I come to
 Your holy
 table to re-
 fresh my spir-
 it, I pray You
 to make me,
 unworthy as I
 am, worthy
 through Your
 grace; impure
 as I am to
 make me
 clean; naked
 as I am to
 clothe me, so
 that Your
 Body, so full
 of divine
 power, and
 Your most
 precious
 Blood, may
 not become
 for me, Your
 servant, the
 occasion for
 judgment or
 punishment .
 ..

Congregation:

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.

C: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

□ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

□ It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")

□ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

. . . but a memorial of the death You underwent for me, a strengthening of my faith, a proof of the taking away of my sin, a bond of closer union with You, an increase of holiness, the basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of eternal life.
Amen

~ pre-Communion Collect by Johann Gerhard, 1582-1637 A.D.

Your unbearable gentleness, Lamb of God, Whose touch dissolves, or destroys like fire.

I am yours, I am yours – what am I in your sight? I would know myself, but in your life-giving light.

O make haste your face on mine to impress, That you find in me no unshapeliness

When you judge me with your clemency For eternity.

Raissa Maritain

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| "Jesus, Lead Thou On" | ... LSB #718 |
| "O Christ, You Walked the Road" | ... LSB #424 |
| "In Adam We Have All Been One" | ... LSB #569 |

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

A Prayer
as You Go
God our
Savior,
bring us
back to You
and fill our
minds with
Your wis-
dom. May
we be en-
riched by
our ob-
servance of
Lent. Grant
this through
our Lord
Jesus Christ.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - - tion!

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

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



☐ A - - - - - men.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” ... Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

<u>Presiding:</u>	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
<u>Preaching:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde <i>(Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am)</i>
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Jacob Drengler
<u>Choir:</u>	The Zion Kantorei
<u>Radio:</u>	Adam Holzschuh
<u>Lector:</u>	Judie Urbanek
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Joselyn Joanis
<u>Communion:</u>	Grace Mueller, Steve Zeinemann
<u>Elder:</u>	Julie Fernstaedt
<u>Ushers:</u>	Josh Daley, Frank Rodemeier, Ken Rodemeier, Tammie Rodemeier
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Connie Lemmer, Bonnie Waack

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Jacob Drengler
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)