

**The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 8, A+D 2026**



# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 1 – Page 151

Lutheran Service Book

## The Righteousness of Christ

Jesus warns that “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, “but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” in “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2-4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His “secret and hidden wisdom” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free” (Is. 58:6) and “to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Is. 58:7).

*Ringing of the Bells*

*Welcome*

## Confession and Absolution

**904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

### Exhortation

*LSB 151*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### Confession of Sins

*LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

### Declaration of Grace

*LSB 151*

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12*

- P** Blessèd are you, O LORD;  
**C** **teach me your statutes!**  
**P** How can a young man keep his way pure?  
**C** **By guarding it according to your word.**  
**P** With my whole heart I seek you;  
**C** **let me not wander from your commandments!**  
**P** I have stored up your word in my heart,  
**C** **that I might not sin against you.**  
**P** Blessèd are you, O LORD;  
**C** **teach me your statutes!**  
**P** With my lips I declare  
**C** **all the just decrees of your mouth.**  
**P** In the way of your testimonies I delight  
**C** **as much as in all riches.**  
**P** I will meditate on your precepts  
**C** **and fix my eyes on your ways.**  
**P** I will delight in your statutes;  
**C** **I will not forget your word.**  
**C** **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.**  
**P** Blessèd are you, O LORD;  
**C** **teach me your statutes!**

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

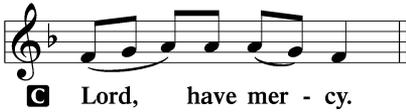


- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** 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.



- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



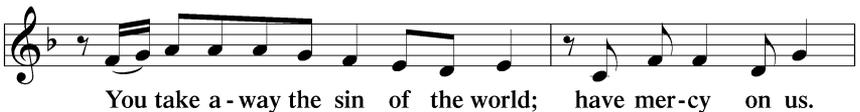
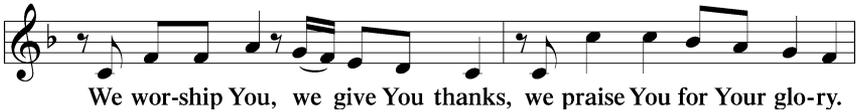
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.





You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

Sit

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 58:3–9a*

**A** The Old Testament Reading for The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany is from the fifty-eighth chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day  
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,  
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,  
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 2:1–16*

**A** The Second Reading is from the second chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

LSB 156



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel***Matthew 5:13–20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## **578 Thy Strong Word**

**Sermon: Who Cares**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Gathering of Tithes & Offerings**

*If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.*

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 192

**C** 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.

## Prayer of the Church

*Responsive Form*

- P** . . . Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## Lord's Prayer

162

- 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**

## Concluding Collect

- P** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** **Amen.**

**Benediction**

LSB 166

- 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**832 Jesus Shall Reign***Silent Prayer**Announcements***Acknowledgments**

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**DONATIONS****FOOD PANTRY****GENERAL FUND****WEBSITES****SPLCMS.ORG****THE GLAD SPIRIT**



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

February 8, 2026

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Janet Sanders  
 Erik & Teresa Schassburger  
 Alec Schassburger  
 Aaron Schassburger  
 Ethan Schassburger  
 Tara Schassburger

#### BIRTHDAYS

Jenna Wiltjer, 2/8  
 Sondra Budde, 2/12

#### BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Tara Schassburger, 2/11  
 Tracy Middleton, 2/12

#### CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

Deb Brandy, 2/8  
 Dolly Tatgenhorst, 2/12

#### SPECIAL CONCERNS

**Pray for** Sandy Bodza, Sondra Budde, Pastor Collins, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Bill Sommer, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren & Chris Van Mynen, Jean and Gene Wiltjer, Ray & Madelaine Zander.

**Serving in the Military** – Austin Brandy, Dakota Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

**Serving as First Responders** – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Harrison & Arianna Cromey, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.



FAST



GIVE

## NEWS UPDATE

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Each year our congregation observes “**Bread Sunday**” on the Sunday after Ash Wednesday. That is when we hear the Gospel reading of Satan tempting Jesus to turn stones into bread, Jesus simply says that man cannot live by bread alone. That is true, but we do need bread.

Next Sunday, February 15, we will celebrate and rejoice in His words by breaking bread together after the service.

Let’s not have everyone bring white bread however; bring wheat, rye, multigrain, raisin, pumpernickel, etc. If you have a bread machine, make one of the more interesting recipes you have tried. Bring also one of your favorite jams, jellies, or spreads. We’ll pass the bread around and enjoy one another’s friendship and fellowship.

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To the glory of God and in loving memory of Janice Abel a memorial gift has been made to the General Fund by Janet Sanders.

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There is a new sign-up sheet for the fellowship hour; it is located on the bulletin board by the kitchen across from the food table. Please look at it and sign up for a sweet treat for a Sunday.

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St. Paul Book Club will meet on Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, to review *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

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**Christ For You the week of February 8<sup>th</sup> on KFUE.org:** We're continuing our study through the book of Genesis on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT). Tune in as we discuss chapters 14-17. Join us on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as Pastor Booe leads us in a new study of the book of Numbers! On Concord Matters this Saturday (2/14 at 10 a.m. CT), we'll be studying Holy Baptism as discussed in the Large Catechism. What is the power, profit, and purpose of Baptism? Find your favorite programs on demand at kfue.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

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“God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother’s arms. God’s peace be with you this day, this night.” Andrea Delwiche – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

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# It Was a Dark and Stormy Night

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:14-16



R E H I L L D X R H B D E D E  
 V F W O W L M E Y B I S H R M  
 P N V V R H H H G D Q D E A B  
 J N M O F T L Z K Y E F D H A  
 R H W J A F C I T Y I E E E N  
 M M B F B P E W G X L G D U N  
 R S L U X C E J E O R A P S U  
 C M T I Q T M Y L H O D M E F  
 B L E A G A S I S L C D N P P  
 Z N M N N H T W G O D I G S P  
 P C F O C D T O Y X H E J A R  
 H H L L B C U L Z S S D V X A  
 J I R K O V V P V U L S B F I  
 F X I K W Z Z D O R C X U U S  
 T F J B L G Z H G X S C W M E

CITY  
SHINE  
FATHER

BOWL  
GOOD  
HILL

HOUSE  
HIDDEN  
MEN

DEEDS  
LAMP  
LIGHT

STAND  
PRAISE  
WORLD

# GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION



## ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

January 25<sup>th</sup> Attendance 5

February 1<sup>st</sup> Attendance 17, 14 Communed

Envelopes	\$1,468.00	Weekly Missions	\$40.00
Basket	35.00	Luth. Church Charity	20.00
General Fund	275.00	Church Maint	20.00
		Social Ministry	50.00
<b>Budgeted Total</b>	<b><u>1,778.00</u></b>	<b>Non-budgeted Total</b>	<b><u>\$130.00</u></b>
Offering Needed	<u>1,342.00</u>		
	<b>\$436.00</b>		



## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	10:00 am	Book Club
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...

## SERVANT SCHEDULE

**Sun, Feb 8, 9:30 AM**      **Sun, Feb 15, 9:30 AM**

Pastor

Lay Reader

Deb Brandy

Norma Allen

## Let's Discuss

### ZOOM ROOM

### MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am

Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: [letsdiscuss@splcms.org](mailto:letsdiscuss@splcms.org)





**February 15, 2026, 9:30 AM**  
The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Burying the Alleluia



**February 18, 2026, 7:00 PM**  
Ash Wednesday  
6:00 PM Pot Luck  
Behold My Servant - The Wise Lord



**February 22, 2026, 9:30 AM**

First Sunday in Lent

Bread Sunday

**February 25, 2026, 9:30 AM**

First Wednesday during Lent

10:30 AM Breakfast

Behold My Servant - The Undesired Lord

**March 01, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Second Sunday in Lent

**March 04, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Second Wednesday during Lent

6:00 PM Pot Luck

Behold My Servant - The Grieving Lord

**March 08, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Third Sunday in Lent

**March 11, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Third Wednesday during Lent

10:30 AM Breakfast

Behold My Servant - The Healing Lord

**March 15, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**March 18, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Fourth Wednesday during Lent

6:00 PM Corned Beef Dinner

Behold My Servant - The Judged Lord

**March 22, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

**March 25, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Fifth Wednesday during Lent

10:30 AM Breakfast

Behold My Servant - The Innocent Lord



# Holy Week

**March 29, 2026, 9:30 AM**

Palm Sunday

**Thu, April 02, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Behold My Servant - The Exalted Lord

**Fri, April 03, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Good Friday

Behold My Servant - The Dying Lord

**April 05, 2026, 7:00 AM**

The Resurrection of Our Lord

8:30 AM Easter Breakfast

# What are you giving up for Lent? Are you sure that's a good idea?

Rev. Mark Wood

Giving up things for Lent is a long-standing tradition in the Western Church. Doing so is generally understood to help us prepare for observing and celebrating Easter through experience some kind of suffering through deprivation. While there is nothing wrong with giving up things for Lent and in some ways it can be a valuable spiritual discipline, for many people the practice has devolved into a work of personal suffering through which they expect to better understand the sufferings of Christ.

How silly of us to think that denying ourselves chocolate for forty days or going without our morning boost of caffeine for a season even begins to approach the least of Jesus' sufferings for us. We've moved far away from the purpose and substance of Lent by the insignificant things we're willing to give up.

While no one is certain about how the practice of giving up things for Lent began or what the motives were of those who first observed Lent in this way, we can certainly see how giving up things for Lent has come to be practiced in our culture.

Far from being a time of solemn reflection and repentance, the beginning of Lent has turned into another excuse for people to engage in excess. Now, without the disciplines of fasting, self-denial, and prayer that followed, people revel in consuming all the things that were once prohibited during Lent — and much, much more. Mardi Gras (and its various regional adaptations) has become a celebrated cultural event that shows more of what the American character has become than our half-hearted observances of Lent.

By giving up things for Lent in the ways that we do, we've made this holy season into one more instance of our self-absorption. Like the New Year's Resolutions that we made just a few weeks ago, our commitment to observing Lent sacrificially is momentary and fleeting. We have a sense of what is good for us and what we must do in order to improve ourselves or our circumstances, but we lack the resolve to see our way through the self-denial that it takes to make the needed change an effective part of our lives. What we give up for Lent is often as petty and

insignificant as what we resolve for New Year's — and ends up just as broken and meaningless.

Isn't it time for us to put an end to our empty observances of Lent? Are we ready for a serious go at journeying through Lent in a way that brings us to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Christ's atoning work? If so, perhaps we should stop giving up things for Lent and use this sacred time to take up things instead.

The things that we should aim to take up during Lent are those things that we've let fall by the wayside as we've lived our lives at the breakneck speed of our culture. It might include taking up a daily devotion or taking up the practice of meditative prayer. If we've been away from the gathering of God's people in worship, we could take up participating in the Divine Service on Sundays as well as the mid-week Lenten services.

What a difference Lent could be for us and make in us if we would take up reading God's Word daily, intentionally speaking the Gospel to one person a week, showing the love of Christ to the poor and needy through acts of mercy, or listening to recorded sermons or Bible studies.

Whatever we might take up for Lent, we should remember that, above all, taking up things for Lent in a meaningful way inevitably results in hearing the clear call of Jesus to take up our crosses daily. Taking up our crosses involves looking beyond our self-interests, desires, and pious actions (including giving up things for Lent) and finding joy, peace, security, and purpose — those things that are so glaringly absent in our culture — in the realization of what Jesus gave up and took up for us.

Take up something edifying for Lent and discover joy that giving up earthly things for a few weeks can never approach.

**Questions to consider:**

- *What might I take up for Lent that would help me grow in faith and love?*
- *How can either taking up something for Lent or giving up something for Lent open doors for me to share God's Word with people in my life? How might it get in the way of it?*
- *In what ways can I use the season of Lent to be a witness of Christ to people who are caught up in the excesses of our culture?*

*Reprint courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*