

**IMAGES OF GOD:  
A Lenten Journey  
Through Sacred Objects**



**SHIELD/WINGS**

*God who protects and shelters*

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
March 18, 2026**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHOIR ANTHEM**    *“As the Deer”*                      *St. Paul Choir*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sheltering God, You gather us under Your wings and hold us in mercy. In a fragile world, be our refuge and strength as we place our trust in You.

**PRELUDE**    *“I Come to The Cross”*                      *Lutheran Men’s Chorus*

**OPENING HYMN: LBW #272**    *“Abide with Me”*

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

### OPENING DIALOG

L: Merciful God, You are our refuge and strength.

**C: We seek shelter in Your presence.**

L: You gather us under Your wings.

**C: Hold us close when we are afraid.**

L: When danger surrounds us, You remain faithful.

**C: We place our trust in You alone.**

L: Cover us with Your steadfast love.

**C: We rest in Your care. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

**Protecting God, You are our refuge and our shield. When we feel exposed or afraid, draw us close under Your wings. Teach us to trust Your care and rest in Your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**    *“Come and Dine”*                      *Lutheran Men’s Chorus*

*“Thy Word”* (sing twice)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

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**FIRST READING:** Psalm 91:1-13

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;

he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

**SECOND READING:** Psalm 18:25-36

With the loyal you show yourself loyal;  
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;  
with the pure you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

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

It is you who light my lamp;  
the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.

By you I can outrun a troop,

and by my God I can leap over a wall.  
 This God—his way is perfect;  
 the promise of the LORD proves true;  
 he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.  
 For who is God except the LORD?  
 And who is a rock besides our God?  
 The God who has girded me with strength  
 and made my way safe.  
 He made my feet like the feet of a deer  
 and set me secure on the heights.  
 He trains my hands for war,  
 so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.  
 You have given me the shield of your salvation,  
 and your right hand has supported me;  
 your help has made me great.  
 You gave me a wide place for my steps under me,  
 and my feet did not slip.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: ELW #814** *“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”*  
*(sing 2 times)*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics underneath: "Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics underneath: "set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.".

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN: WOV #779** *“On Eagle’s Wings”*

**THE LITANY**

- L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, Have mercy.**

L: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits and the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFERING:** *“Written in Red”*

*Lutheran Men’s Chorus*

**OFFERTORY: LBW #406** *“Take My Life, that I May Be”*  
(verses 1 & 5)

1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

5 Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will be live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: 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.**

*"Go Now In Peace"*

*Lutheran Men's Chorus*

## **BENEDICTION**

May the God who shelters you under loving wings be your refuge and strength, guard your heart and mind, and surround you with steadfast love. **Amen.**

## **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, held in God's care.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *"Thy Holy Wings"* Swedish folk tune