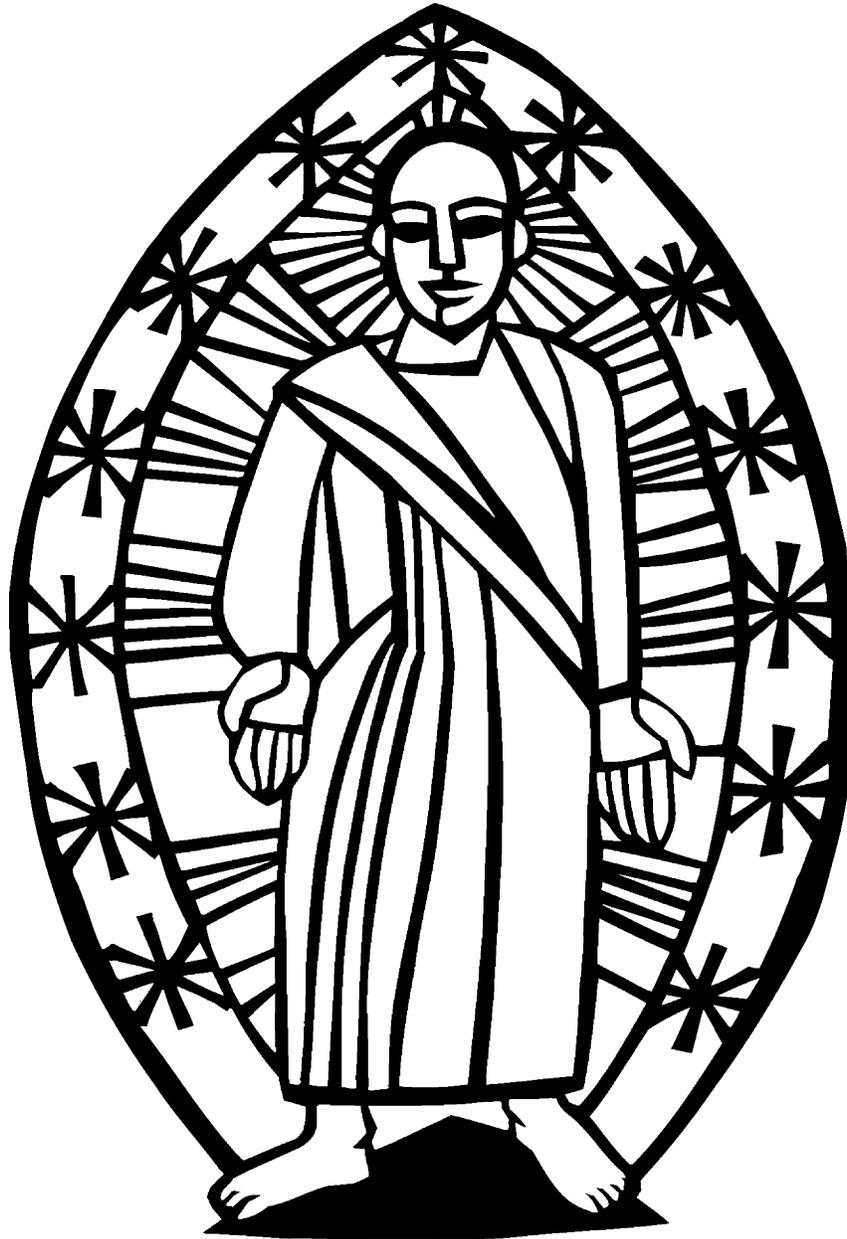


**St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 15, 2026**



*On a high mountain, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son
echoing the words at his baptism.*

We serve God through caring and compassionate service.

The Service

*The Congregation shall stand

The Prelude

*The Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

*The Gathering Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me: Refrain:

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me: Refrain:

***The Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***The Kyrie**

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 this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

***The Hymn of Praise**

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Prayer of the Day

Archie M

L: Let us pray,

C: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Children's Meditation

The First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18(NRSVue)

¹² The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

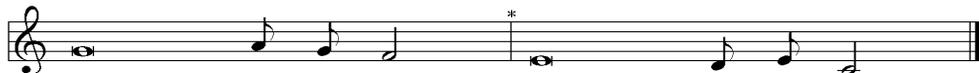
¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 2

intoned responsively



¹ Why are the nations | in an uproar?*

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the
princes | plot together,***

against the Lord and against the | Lord's anointed?

³ "Let us break their | yoke," they say;*

let us cast off their | bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;***
the Lord holds them | in derision.

⁵ Then in wrath God | speaks to them*

and in rage fills | them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king***

upon Zion, my | holy mountain.”

⁷ Let me announce the decree | of the Lord,*
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten
you.

**⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your
inheritance*
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an | iron rod*
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

**¹⁰ And now, you | kings, be wise;*
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the | Lord with fear,*
and with trembling | bow in worship;

**¹² lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden |
blaze of wrath.***

Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!

The Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21(NRSVue)

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever

came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly shall stand.

***The Gospel Acclamation**

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 17:1-9(NRSVue)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Hymn of the Day "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

Text: Joseph A Robinson, 1858-1933, alt

POTSDAM

Music: W Mercer, The Church Psalter and Hymn Book, 1854

- 1. How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun, shine with
unborrowed light.**

- 2. How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold where
Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.**

- 3. Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail
your body glorified and our redemption see.**

- 4. Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we
long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our
home.**

- 5. How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain; but
since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the
plain.**

The assembly shall stand.

***The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit; the Lord, the giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.****

***The Prayers of Intercession**

Archie M

L: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve especially members of our Congregation who are suffering silently, family and friends of Charlotte, Cullom family, Scott's great aunt, Raynaud's family, Dave, Dora Beth, Bob, Chuck, Deb, Joyce, Cathy H, Frank, Leroy, Wendy, Yvonne, Donna, Stephanie, Anita, Michelle, Ann, Genie, Wally, Troy, Anne, Cathy, Chyrstal, and Vivian. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Provider, help your people in need. We pray for families struggling to provide basic needs, those who utilize our food pantry. Give us the ability to serve others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of patience, we pray for that patience as we continue in the search for a Pastor to lead us. Guide the synod staff as they select possible candidates for our call process. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen**

***The Peace of the Lord**

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

*The People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly shall be seated.*

The Offering

The assembly shall stand.

***The Offertory**

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

***The Offertory Prayer**

L: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God, come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**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.****

The assembly shall be seated

The Lamb of God

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

The Distribution

The assembly shall stand.

***L: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.****

***The Canticle**

C: Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***The Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

C: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***The Sending Hymn "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"**

Text: Ernest E Ryden, 1886-1981, alt, based on the Nunc dimittis

KUORTANE

Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America

Arr © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

- 1. O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace; a light to lead the nations unto your holy hill, the glory of your people, your chosen Israel.**
- 2. Then grant that I may follow your gleam, O glorious Light, till earthly shadows scatter, and faith is changed to sight; till raptured saints shall gather upon that shining shore, where Christ, the blessed daystar, shall light them evermore.**

The candles are extinguished.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Announcements

The Assembly shall stand.

***The Benediction and Dismissal**

L: May the triune God,
 who has put a new song in your mouth
 and tuned your heart for praise
 + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Do justice, love mercy, serve others with care and
 compassion.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

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February 15, 2026

Welcome to St. Stephen's! We are glad you have joined us for worship. **In case of emergency ministerial care, please contact Tom Stempson, Phone #317-374-8708, email: stempson@att.net.** We have been blessed to worship alongside you and hope to see you again soon!

All Who Profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and acknowledge His Presence within the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament.

We welcome Tom Stempson presiding this morning. Thank you for sharing your message with us.

This morning we celebrate with Charlotte Dunbar as she receives her First Holy Communion. Please allow Charlotte and her family to go to the altar before the rest of the congregation. We pray that the Lord be with Charlotte as she continues to grow in her faith and Jesus' Love.

Prayer Requests...

Charlotte S – called to the Church Triumphant Wed. evening, Feb. 4.

Joyce & Jay D – Cullom family.

Dave M – recovery from surgery last Tuesday.

Dora Beth R – surgery, Feb 4, breast cancer.

Kay W – stepdaughter Joyce, recovery & rehab after surgery.

Tori A – Aunt Sharon; recovery; Stephanie, heart; Michelle, infection.

Bob R – health issues.

Jim & Dena T – Brother Chuck, cardiac issues; Leroy, health.

Holly E – Deb, lung cancer recurred; Anita, bone cancer; Anne, kidney transplant.

Member of Sewing Group – Cathy H, entering hospice.

Genie & Wally R – brother Frank, multiple surgeries; Genie, health; Wally, back.

Wendy B – gainful employment.

Pastor Bob & Sally –Yvonne, broken ribs & hip.

Jim B – wife Donna, recovering from a liver transplant.

Raynaud C – family in Haiti.

Dave & Beth – Troy, broken back.

Scott C – great aunt, broken hip.

Patti W – sister Deb diagnosed with PSP.

Phyllis H – daughter Cathy, granddaughter Chrystal.

Izzy L – friend, Vivian, health.

The Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to Dave Spikes, family, and friends at the passing of wife, mother, grandmother Charlotte this past Wednesday evening. Charlotte was a long-time member of St. Stephen's until health problems prohibited her from attending. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Up-coming Events:

Wed, Feb 18

9:00 am Pins & Needles Sewing

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service

Prepare the Way for the Lord Jesus Christ – Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 pm, as we prepare our Lenten Journey with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

Current giving income received in the month of January was \$8,503.60 . Amount needed each month per 2026 budget is \$9,583.00. If you'd like to make your offering online so you don't have to deal with checks and envelopes, go to ststephensplainfield.org and click on the Online Offering tab. Thank you.



Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 - There are children activity bags in a basket in the Narthex for children, of various ages, to use during church. The children's bulletin follows the Lectionary for each week and the children can take it home. At the end of the service, please return the bags to the basket.

Volunteers are always needed to make our services a fellowship of community. Please take time to check the sign-up sheet posted on the black bulletin board for opportunities to serve. **Volunteers are needed to help with Fellowship.** If you can supply the food and snacks on a Sunday, please sign up on the list in the Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are welcome, too. If you have questions, please see Gloria Kocher.

Please fill out the yellow cards and place them in the offering plate. The cards allow us to track attendance and follow up with visitors. For members, your name and date, along with any prayer requests will suffice. For visitors, please provide your contact information so we can send you a follow-up email or text.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: This month our pantry is **Saturday, February 28.** Pantry set-up will be **Friday, February 27.** We know it's a lot to ask, but please consider giving some time to this important mission. Remember us when you shop or during your regular giving. We've been so successful with this mission only because of your loyalty. God Bless.

Preparing for Next Week: Monday Acts 7:30-34 Tuesday Psalm 78:17-20,52-55 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2,12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 Thursday Romans 1:1-7 Friday Psalm 51 Saturday Isaiah 58:1-12 First Sunday in Lent: Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

