



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

**WELCOME! We are blessed to worship with you today!**

If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you. To find out everything going on at St. Paul's, visit [www.stpaulsokc.com](http://www.stpaulsokc.com).

## **SERVING TODAY:**

Reader: Paula Schopflin  
Prayer Leader: Marci Waguespack  
Altar Guild: Susi Laflin  
Children's Message: Patricia Ayling  
Video assistant: Mike Lewis  
Ushers: Tony Nutter, Steve Botkin, Micah Moeller, Bill Schopflin & Rex Bross  
Communion Assistant: Joyce Martin  
Acolyte & Crucifer: Atticus & Arabella Veit

**PRELUDE:** *Ron Wallace*

## **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause for silent reflection)*

Gracious God,

***Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.***

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved and in the name of Christ your sins are forgiven. ***Amen.***

## **OPENING HYMN:**

### ***The Old Rugged Cross***

vs 1, 2 & 4

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*Refrain:* So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear lamb of God left his glory  
above to bear it to dark calvary. *Refrain*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
its shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,  
where His glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

The Lord be with you.

***And also, with you.***

## This Is the Feast

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister

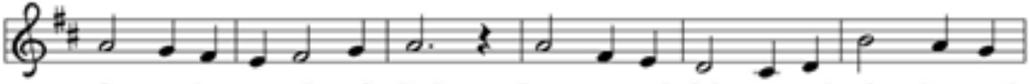


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

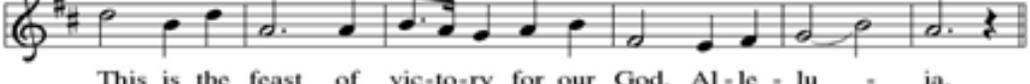


free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

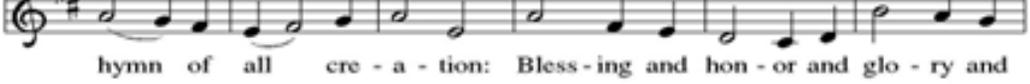


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

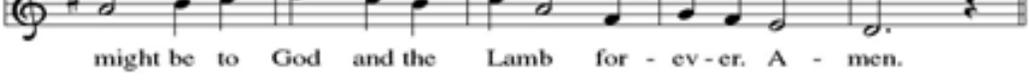


hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

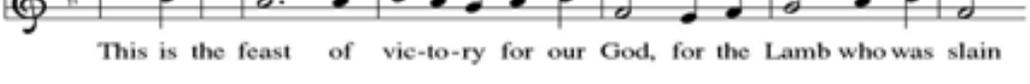


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

### **Genesis 12:1-4a**

**12** Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 121



- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
***from where is my | help to come?***
- <sup>2</sup>My help comes | from the LORD,  
***the maker of heav- | en and earth.***
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
***nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.***
- <sup>4</sup>Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
***will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;***
- <sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
***the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;***
- <sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike | you by day,  
***nor the | moon by night.***
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
***and will | keep your life.***
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
***from this time forth for- | evermore.***

## SECOND READING

### **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

<sup>4</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life,  
***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### ***Return to the Lord***



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to **John**.  
***Glory to you, O Lord***

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **John 3:1-17**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2**He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." **3**Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **4**Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" **5**Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6**What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7**Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8**The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9**Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10**Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? **11**"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. **12**If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13**No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15**that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17**"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Patricia Ayling**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC:**

***Man of Sorrows***

SPLC Adult Choir

## **MESSAGE**

**Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

## **HYMN**

### ***Near The Cross***

vs 1, 3 & 4

Jesus, keep me near the cross- There a precious fountain,  
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

### ***Refrain:***

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me. *Refrain*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river. *Refrain*

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.***

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

### ***Hear our prayer.***

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

*Please note there is no offertory during service, our offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, or scan the QR code or visit [stpaulsokc.com/online-giving](http://stpaulsokc.com/online-giving) to give online.*



## **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

### **HOLY, HOLY, 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.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to all of them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, 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***

**DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS** *Please note, there are gluten free wafers available if you need them. The cups in the center of the trays are juice, and the outer rings are wine.*

Let us pray. ***Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

### **THE BLESSING**

May the Father, †Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

**Ron Wallace**

### **SENDING**

Go in Peace. Remember the poor. ***Thanks be to God.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEDNESDAY LENT SERVICES—“In the Name of Jesus” by Henri Nouwen

Spend time with Jesus as he faces his temptations in the desert. We are using Nouwen’s book as our guide. Soup suppers begin at 5:45, service at 6:30 in the sanctuary, age group activities from 7:00-7:30. Choir rehearsal at 7:00. Spring Break (3/18) will be service and choir rehearsal only.

***Please sign up to bring soup! Sign up sheets are in the narthex!***

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Once a year we journey with Jesus through the highs and lows of this sacred week. **Palm Sunday is 3/29** and includes a children’s palm procession, potluck and egg hunt. **Maundy Thursday (4/2 at 7:00pm)** recounts Jesus washing the disciples’ feet and receiving communion. **Good Friday (4/3 at 7:00pm)** focuses on the cross. Then we rest and pray Holy Saturday, and come together for worship on **Easter—Resurrection Sunday—at 9:30am!**

### EASTER LILLIES

Help defer the cost of the Blackwelder Brass program & beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! \$25/plant- please fill out a form, online or in person. Forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex and returned to the designated folder. If paying online, remember to tell us who or what your flower is in honor/memory of so they can be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin. Also please tell us if you will be taking your flower home. All orders are due March 29th.

### CANTICLE RINGERS CONCERT

The Canticle Ringers have been invited to be the performing artists for the closing concert of the season for The OKC Ladies Music Club. They will play a varied program of Popular, Patriotic and Secular music. The concert will be given on WEDNESDAY MORNING, March 18 @10:30am at Mayflower Congregational Church, 3901 NW 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, OKC, OK 73116. There is NO CHARGE to attend this program, and we would love to see some friendly faces in our audience from St Paul’s. Invite anyone you know who will appreciate good music performed beautifully. We hope to see you there!

### CLASS CANDY COMPETITION

The class candy competition has begun! Each class will collect candy for our Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday (3/29). Please bring candy and place in the tubs on the stage in the activity center by March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is open! We ask for help keeping it stocked. Please bring non-expired, nonperishable food items to the church. Feel free to place your items in the pantry cabinet (set on the north side of the main entrance) or leave items in the cart in the narthex. If you are looking for suggestions for items to bring, there are lists on the information table in the narthex.  
Questions- contact Alana Adair.

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### MARCH

**3/1- Worship & Education**

**3/2-** 9am Canticle Ringers

**3/3-** 6:00 Executive Board meeting  
6:30 Twilight Tones

**3/4- Wed. Lent Service & Activities**

5:45 Soup Supper

6:30 Service

7:00 Adult Choir & Group Activity

**3/8- Worship & Education**

**3/9-** 9am Canticle Ringers

**3/10-** 6:30 Twilight Tones

**3/11- Wed. Lent Service & Activities**

5:45 Soup Supper

6:30 Service

7:00 Adult Choir & Group Activity

**3/15- Worship & Education**

**3/16** 9am Canticle Ringers

**3/18-** 10:30 Canticle Ringers Bell Concert @Mayflower Congregational Church, 3901 NW 63<sup>rd</sup> St.

**6:30 Wed. Lent Service**

7:00 Adult Choir

*Spring break – no supper or activity*

1pm - XYZ

**3/22- Worship & Education**

**3/23-** 9am Canticle Ringers

**3/24-** 6:30 Twilight Tones

**3/25- Wed. Lent Service & Activities**

5:45 Soup Supper

6:30 Service

7:00 Adult Choir & Group Activity

### **Holy Week**

**3/29- Worship – Palm Sunday**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship (after service)

12 pm Easter Carnival & Egg Hunt

**3/30-** 9am Canticle Ringers