



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 15, 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: Marci Waguespack  
Prayer Leader: Joyce Martin  
Altar Guild: Janet Miller  
Children's Message: Dawn Finnicum  
Video assistant: Mike Lewis  
Ushers: Tony Nutter, Steve Botkin, Micah Moeller, Bill Schopflin & Rex Bross  
Communion Assistants: Marci Waguespack, Robert & Alana Adair, Joyce Martin, Linda Allison, Rick & Patricia Ayling  
Acolyte & Crucifer: TBD

## 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:

#796

***How Firm a Foundation***

vs 1-3

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.

The flames shall not hurt you;  
I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”

The Lord be with you.

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

## Kyrie 3 & 4

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*

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

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

### **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**16** The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And

he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life.

***Thanks be to God!***

### **PSALM 23**



<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;

***I shall not | be in want.***

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures

***and leads me be- | side still waters.***

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,

***and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.***

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

***for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.***

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

***you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.***

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

***and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.***

### **SECOND READING**

#### **Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, Word of Life,

***Thanks be to God.***

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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



The Holy Gospel according to **John**.

***Glory to you, O Lord***

### **GOSPEL READING**

#### **John 9:1-41**

<sup>9</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those

who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"  
<sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."  
<sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"  
<sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."  
<sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."  
<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.  
<sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.  
<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."  
<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath."  
Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.  
<sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."  
<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight  
<sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"  
<sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind,  
<sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."  
<sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.  
<sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."  
<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."  
<sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."  
<sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"  
<sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"  
<sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.  
<sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."  
<sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.  
<sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.  
<sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.  
<sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."  
<sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.  
<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"  
<sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."  
<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."  
<sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.  
<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."  
<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"  
<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

**MESSAGE**

**Dawn Finnicum**

***Amazing Grace***

**Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

SPLC Adult Choir

**HYMN**

#623

***Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me***

vs 1, 3 & 4

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

## 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

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."  
For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed, the under employed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

***Lord, have mercy.***

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 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

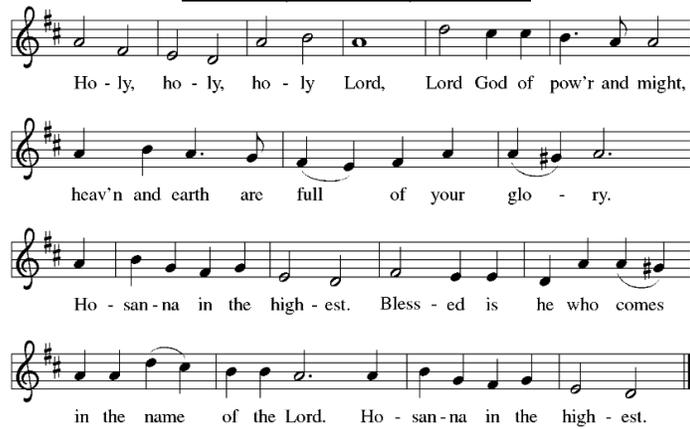
The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

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.*

### SPECIAL COMMUNION MUSIC

***As Long as I Have Breath***

Twilight Tones

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. THIS WEDNESDAY 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 carnival/egg hunt. **Maundy Thursday (4/2 at 7:00pm)** recounts Jesus washing the disciples' feet as we receive 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!**

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

Join us for a breakfast potluck on **March 29th** following worship. Bring a breakfast casserole, pastry or fruit to share. Coffee will be provided. Any questions contact a member of the outreach board.

### 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!

### XYZ

Thursday, March 19, at 1 p.m. in the activity center. Diane Dewing is host. Please wear or bring something VERY UNUSUAL (1-2 items only) and we'll have a little fun with that. Then.....well you'll just have to come and see. Join us for some fun and goodies.

### CLASS CANDY COMPETITION – DEADLINE NEXT SUNDAY!!

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 in the activity center by March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MERCH

If you didn't get your anniversary merch, there are still a few items available. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Behrens.

### 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.

### ALL CHURCH SPRING CLEAN UP

Join us Saturday (3/28) to clean up the Church grounds. We need help planting flowers, replacing mulch, pulling weeds, etc. A chili lunch will be provided. Bring your family & gardening tools!

Questions: contact Luke Green

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**3/15- Worship** *No Education*

**3/16-** 9 am 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*

**3/19-** 1pm - XYZ

**3/22- Worship & Education**

**3/23-** 9 am 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

**3/28-** 9am-2pm Spring Clean up

### *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

**4/1-** 6:30 Adult Choir

**4/2-** 7 pm **Maundy Thursday service**

**4/3-** 7 pm **Good Friday Service**

**4/5-** 9:30am **Easter/Resurrection Sunday**