



3rd Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

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.

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Marci Waguespack
Ushers: Ted Teske, Patti Spain, Mike Thompson, Keith Kilpatrick & Luke Green
Children's Message: Dawn Finnicum
Altar Guild: Cindy Bench
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Behrens, Marci Waguespack, Amy Bandi, Tom Todd, Linda Allison, Ann Lawton & Nola Pirog
Video assistant: Mike Lewis
Acolyte & Crucifer: Kale Foote & Henson Davis

PRELUDE:

Be Thou My Vision

Canticle Ringers

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 sin, 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: #742 ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear-
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness- take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior still our refuge- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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

KYRIE 1 & 2

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,



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

Refrain

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

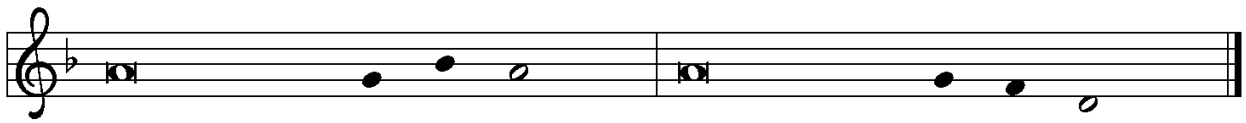
FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!



PSALM 63:1-8

- ¹O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;
***my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.***
- ²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- ³For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.
- ⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- ⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord



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

GOSPEL READING Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Finnicum

SPECIAL MUSIC

What Wondrous Love is This?

Canticle Ringers

MESSAGE

Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN

#714

O God of Mercy

Vs 1, 3, 4 & 5

O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.

For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, may we each other's burdens share;
may, we, where help is needed there, give help as though to you.

THE 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

Father, we pray for your holy Christian Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

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



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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

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.***

Please note there is no offertory during service, our offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, or you can give online using the link on our website, www.stpaulsokc.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY LENT SERVICES

“The Unheard Texts” – 6:30pm

Lent Services with a potluck soup supper before and age-appropriate reflection/activity groups after (7:00-7:30pm).

READ ALONG WITH US!

This Lent, we will be reading the book, “Spiritual Practices for the Brain” by Anne Kertz Kernion. Grab a copy wherever you like to get books and join us for discussion after Lent services!

5th SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCH

March 30th after worship service. Bring your favorite sandwich, salad or sweet! Questions- ask a member of the Outreach Board.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – APRIL 6TH

The spring congregational meeting will be on Sunday, April 6, 2025. All board chairs should begin recruiting members to fill vacancies and provide those to Tom Harrington by Sunday, March 30th.

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 April 10th.

EASTER CANDY COLLECTION

Please leave candy donations in the tub in the narthex or you can add to the class competition in the activity center. All candy is due by 4/9.

PINE PANTRY

The Outreach Board will be collecting food for the Pine Pantry to help people provide Easter dinners for their families. We are looking for non-perishable food items.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Spring clean up will be Saturday April 12th from 9am-noon. We will pull weeds, remove dead flowers, putting down fresh mulch and planting new flowers. We will have a chili lunch afterward. Contact a member of the Property Board with any questions.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

3/23- Worship & Education

3/24- 9 am- Canticle Ringers

3/25- 6:30 pm Twilight Tones

3/26- 5:45 pm Potluck Soup Supper

6:30 pm Wednesday Lent Service

7:00 pm All Church activity &

Adult Choir practice

3/30- Worship & 5TH Sunday Fellowship

Blackwelder Brass

3/31- 9 am- Canticle Ringers