



1st Sunday of Lent

March 9, 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.stpaulsoke.com.

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Paula Schopflin
Ushers: Ted Teske, Patti Spain, Mike Thompson, Keith Kilpatrick & Luke Green
Children's Message: Tom Todd
Altar Guild: Susi Laflin
Communion Assistants: Carolyn Behrens, Paula Schopflin, Debi Musick, Susi Laflin, Janet Miller, Jill & Bali Botkin
Video assistant: Mike Lewis
Acolyte & Crucifer: Madelynn Labus & Kale Foote

PRELUDE: *Illuminare His* by Elaine Hagenburg Midland University Choir
Translation: Illuminate those in darkness, and in the shadow of death are seated.
Direct our footpath in the way of peace.

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: *I Will Sing of My Redeemer*

I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered from the curse to set me free.

Refrain: Sing, O sing of my Redeemer, With His blood he purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon, Paid the debt and made me free.

I will tell the wondrous story how, my lost estate to save,
In His boundless love and mercy He the ransom freely gave.
Refrain

I will sing of my Redeemer and His heavenly love for me;
He from death to life hath bro't me, Son of God with Him to be.
Refrain

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

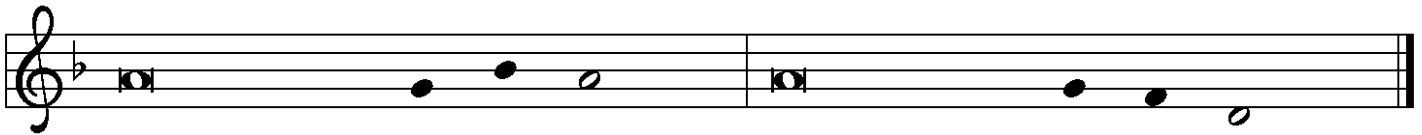
Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

26 “When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

**PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16**

¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
²you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust."
⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.
¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.
¹²Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
¹⁴I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.
¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
¹⁶With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation.

SECOND READING Romans 10:8b-13

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING Luke 4:1-13

⁴Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Tom Todd

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rise My Soul by Susan LaBarr Midland University Choir

MESSAGE

Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN

#517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit of sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

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

Gracious God, we remember that Jesus overcame the temptations he faced. He endured first the time in the wilderness and ultimately the pain and suffering of the cross. Help us during our Lenten journey to fix our eyes on him and daily pick up our own crosses. (*Short Silence*) Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

Help those who govern and rule the nations today to rule with justice, mercy and benevolence. (*Short Silence*) Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

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. (*Short silence*) Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

During this penitential season help us demonstrate the joy of our Christian faith to all our family, friends and neighbors. (*Short Silence*) Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

We pray for those still burdened, those seeking healing, suffering from addiction of any kind, those in need within the church and the world. (*Short Silence*) Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

We pray that our only desire and our one choice is to choose what better leads to the deepening of your life in us. Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer

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.

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, 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 begin March 9 with a potluck soup supper before and age-appropriate reflection/activity groups after (7:00-7:30pm).

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.

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!

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.

OFFICE CLOSED- 3/17 & 3/18

Due to electrical updates, the building will be without power. The office will be closed March 17th & 18th. Possibly longer if more time is needed to make the needed updates.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

3/9- Worship & Education

Visiting choir from Midland College

3/10-9 am- Canticle Ringers

3/11-6:30 pm- Twilight Tones

3/12-5:45 pm Potluck Soup Supper

6:30 pm Wednesday Lent Service

7 pm All Church activity &

Adult Choir practice

3/23- Worship

No education, Spring Break

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 pm All Church activity &

Adult Choir practice

3/16- Worship & Education

3/17-3/18 –

Office Closed/Activities Cancelled

3/20-XYZ

3/30- Worship & 5TH Sunday Fellowship

Blackwelder Brass

3/31-9 am- Canticle Ringers