



5th Sunday of Lent

April 6, 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: Christy Reed
Ushers: Tony Nutter, Bill Schopflin, Steve Botkin & Micah Moeller
Children's Message: Tom Todd
Altar Guild: Lynne Elias
Communion Assistants: Patricia Ayling
Video assistant: Steve Powell
Acolyte & Crucifer: Viktor & Pippa Teske

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 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: *The Old Rugged Cross*

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 least 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 the 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.

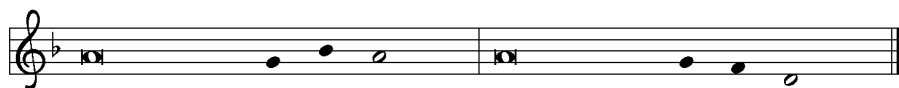
Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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



PSALM 126

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

³Then they said a- | mong the nations,
"The LORD has done great | things for them."

⁴The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁵Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁶Those who | sowed with tears

will reap with | songs of joy.

⁷Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,

will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tom Todd

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Wondrous Grace

Carolyn Behrens w/Ron Wallace

MESSAGE

Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN

#754 **Jesus The Very Thought of You**

Jesus, the very thought of you fills us with sweet delight;
But sweeter far your face to view and rest within your light.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
A sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!

O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!

O Jesus, be our joy today; help us to prize your love;
Grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home above."

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy." (Brief silence.) For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, and all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present here or online or and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, 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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – TODAY -AFTER WORSHIP

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! 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!

EASTER LILLIES – ONLY 2 MORE SUNDAYS TO ORDER!!

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. Due by 4/13.

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.

XYZ

Thursday, April 17 at 12:30 p.m. We're having a FISH FRY with games to follow. Hosts are Ron and Donna Jantz. Please note that if you plan to eat fish, you MUST sign up. We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon.

FLYFISHERS OF MEN XX

Get out your fishing gear. Mark your calendars for May 12-16 when we'll be holding our annual fishing trip to beautiful Roaring River in the heart of the Ozarks. A sign-up sheet will be displayed in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Friedemann. We hope you can join us for some great Christian fellowship and hopefully, good fishing!

APRIL ACTIVITIES

4/6- Worship & Education

Congregational Meeting

4/7-9 am Canticle Ringers

4/8-6:30 Twilight Tones

4/9- Wednesday Night Lent Activities

5:30- Children's Handbells

5:45- Soup Supper

6:30- Lent Service

7:00- All Church Activity & Choir Practice

4/13- Worship & Education

Palm Sunday

4/15-9 am Canticle Ringers

6:30 Twilight Tones

4/16-7:00 Choir Practice

4/17-6:30 Maundy Thursday Service

4/18-6:30 Good Friday Service

4/19- 10 am Easter Egg Hunt & Carnival

4/20- Worship - Easter Sunday

4/22-6:30 Twilight Tones

4/23- Wednesday Night Activities

5:30- Children's Handbells

5:45- Meal

6:30- Education & Choir Practice

4/27- Worship & Education

Prayer Partner Banquet

4/29-6:30 Twilight Tones

4/30- Wednesday Night Activities

5:30- Children's Handbells

5:45- Wednesday Night Celebration Night

6:30- Choir Practice