



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St Paul's! If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here to share in the Good News. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you.

Easter Lilies: Beautify the church Easter morning and support the Blackwelder Brass musicians by purchasing Easter lilies. Make Checks payable to St. Paul's with "Easter Lily" in the memo. Lilies are \$20/ea. Order forms are attached or can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex, deadline is **April 2nd**. Contact Nancy Krause with any questions.

Wednesday night soups: Please sign up to bring your favorite soup for Wednesday night meals. Signup sheet in the narthex & activity center.

Easter Candy: We need candy for Easter eggs. Collection box is in the narthex. Please bring candy (NO NUTS!) by **Sunday, March 26!**

Spring clean-up day/"Grow in Christ": We need your help! It's time to spruce up the property for Easter! Spring clean-up day is **April 1, 9am-12pm**, chili will be served afterward. Plants & mulch will be available that day for everyone that adopted a bed. Contact Lyle Scharping or Carolyn Behrens for details.

The Vine Ladies Luncheon: The Outreach Board will be hosting the luncheon at the ROC on **Thursday, March 23** at 11:30. There are 35-40 ladies attending each week. We will need 12 salads, 7 desserts and 4 bread/rolls. Pastor Stefanie will be the guest speaker that day! Please come serve and stay for the program after! Find the sign up sheet at the welcome center.

CANCELLED - SPLC to Regional Food bank & Dodger's game

Clothing for Vets: Bring your gently used men's and women's clothing to SPLC and put them in the CLOTHES FOR VETS shopping basket in the narthex! Donations will be delivered to the Veterans hospital. Thank you for your generosity and help for the brave men and women who served our country! Contact the Outreach Board with any questions!

ROC Food Pantry is desperate for food and needs our help. The Food Bank has decreased the amount of food they provide, and the pantry shelves are getting emptier. Any donation will help. They especially need canned goods and ramen noodles. Bring the food to the ROC food cart in the narthex. See Diane Dewing or Tom Todd with any questions.

The Psalms of the Cross. Lent Wednesday services for the whole church are from 6:30-7pm in the Sanctuary looking at the Psalms connected to the cross. Kids and Teens will then meet in their classes from 7-7:30pm and adults will meet in the Narthex with Pastor Stefanie. Soup Suppers are served at 5:45pm each week. See you Wednesday!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Maundy Thursday (4/6) and Good Friday (4/7) are approaching! Both services will be at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will receive communion and spend time with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on Thursday. Friday will be a Tenebrae service (a service of darkening) led by the choir, organ, and orchestra ensemble with Scripture readings.

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Joyce Martin
Altar Guild: Joyce Martin
Communion Assistants: Linda Allison, Joyce Martin & **NEED 1**
Video Assistant: Garrett Purdum
Children's Message: Patricia Ayling
Ushers: Garrett Purdum, Phill Crissup, Rod Randall & Jerry Wagner
Acolyte and Crucifer: Atticus & Arabella Veit

PRELUDE: *Song Without Words*- Gustov Holst Blackwelder Brass

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Pause for silent reflection)

Leader: Gracious God,

People: 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.

Leader: 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 we have received his forgiveness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: **#597 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*** vs 1-3

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand' all other ground is sinking sand.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Kyrie – vs 1&2

Kyrie

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Leader: 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.” ²Samuel 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.’” ³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But 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.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ 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.”¹² 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.”¹³ 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

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

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

⁴Though 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

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

⁶Surely 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

⁸for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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 RESPONSE

Return to the Lord



The Holy Gospel according to **John 9:1-41**
Glory to you, O Lord

9As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2**His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3**Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. **4**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. **5**As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6**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, **7**saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8**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?” **9**Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” **10**But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11**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.” **12**They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14**Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15**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.” **16**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. **17**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.”

18The 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 **19**and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” **20**His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, **21**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.” **22**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. **23**Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24So 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.” **25**He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” **26**They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” **27**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?”

28Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29**We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” **30**The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31**We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. **32**Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33**If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

34They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

35Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36**He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” **37**Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” **38**He said, “Lord, I

believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus 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: Patricia Ayling

SPECIAL MUSIC: *In Christ Alone*

Adult Choir w/Blackwelder Brass

MESSAGE: Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN: #803 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates:

Parents and Godparents: I present Chevy Brandon to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Question to the Congregation: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support him in his life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

Let us now pray for the one who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open his heart to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send him into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

...To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Congregational Welcome: *God Claims You*

(See music insert placed in your pew back.)

Refrain: Chevy, Chevy, God claims you, God helps you, protects you and loves you too.

Verse 1: We this day do all agree. A child of God you'll always be. **Refrain**

Verse 2: We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. **Refrain**

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. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. 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

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

And now, as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

SPECIAL COMMUNION MUSIC *Komm Susser Todd*- J.S. Bach Blackwelder Brass

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE BLESSING

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

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Contrapunctius V – J.S. Bach Blackwelder Brass

SENDING

Go in Peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.