



**St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA**

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Mike Patterson, Interim Pastor

## ***BRIEF ORDER OF SERVICE***

### **SETTING II**



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 19, 2023**

**SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Family

### GATHERING

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG: Hymn #673 God, Whose Almighty Word**

- 1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.
- 4 Holy and blessed three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.

(Pg. 120)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **WORD OF GOD**

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

<sup>1</sup>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 the LORD’s 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: Psalm 23**

*Refrain*



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

I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I shall<sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they<sup>1</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my  
enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever. R**

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

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live 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, but instead 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.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

(Pg. 125) **Let your steadfast love come to us O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised: we will trust your word.**

**Save us as you promised: we will trust your word.**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] 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 the man.” <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." But 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, and 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 near 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 is proclaimed, concluding...)

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: Let My Spirit Always Sing**

**Music: Jane Marshall**

**Text: Shirley Evena Murray**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**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 into hell.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials (*specific leaders may be named*). Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (*especially*).

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community (*especially*). Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (*especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of that peace.

### **OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #843, Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

### **OFFERING**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Come join in the fun of making palm crosses to give to everyone on Palm Sunday. We will meet in Friendship Hall on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to help.

If you have questions, please call Mary DeFelice at 775 882-0916.



### **SENDING SONG: Hymn #768, Lead Me, Guide Me**

I am weak and I need thy strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour  
Lead me through the darkness thy face to see  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way,  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**See you next week!**

### **Today's Worship Volunteers**

Greeter – Jean Opperman

Reader – Dorothea Phelan

Communion Assistant – Cody Lopez

Ushers – Dave Harrell and Greg Griffith

Counters – Judy McPhail and Sharon Gesick

Acolytes – Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes – Kellsey and Shaylee

Live-streaming Team – Deanna Fine and Nick Cotsonis

Musician – Vicki Hamilton

**Altar Guild:** Carol Arneson and Marla Johnson

**Faith L.I.N.K. meets from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**

### **PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

Jay Olshen, a severely fractured ankle; Jim Kennett, an infection in his arm; Beverly and Grant, friends of Susan Bunker-Niles, Grant suffered a stroke; David Lingensjo, knee surgery; Eric McPhail (Colin McPhail's nephew) in hospice for cancer; Brita Steyn's granddaughter born prematurely; Vera Logie, Tom, a friend of St. Paul's; Patricia Rickard, mother-in-law of Shirley Rickard, stage-4 lung cancer; Joan Yeskie; Mike Harrell (Dave and Ellen Harrell's son), COVID-19; son-in-law John Samp, a growth on his skull and spine, and daughter Vicki Ranger, early-onset dementia; Glenn Laursen; Edward Yoho; Madelene Yoho; Fern Yoho; Maxine McGregor (Madelene's sister); and a special prayer for all those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

### **CONTINUING PRAYERS**

Audrey Stroub, rehab from back surgery; Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues; Bob Stroub; Dick Lowther, recovery from a broken hip; Wayne Opperman; Bill Sandell; Frank and Shirley Bartlett; Bev Gutzman; Sarah Jevne; Carol Kalleres, continued health issues; James Wilson, continued health issues; Mary Ann Adamik, healing; Ellen Harrell, medical issues;

Betty Razor, healing; Karen (Hone) Nolte; Hannelore Hanke; and Diana Johns.

*We grieve with Doug Thunder on the loss of his sister Keturah Ann Thunder-Haab (Kay) who passed away at her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan on Thursday, March 16th. May her memory be a blessing.*

