

*“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

March 19, 2023

10:30 AM

**Lent 4**

*After the ringing of the bell ...*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

HYMN

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

*LBW #400*

**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 Lord, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly 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!**

GREETING AND LITANY

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.**

The word is near you,

**on your lips and in your heart.**

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

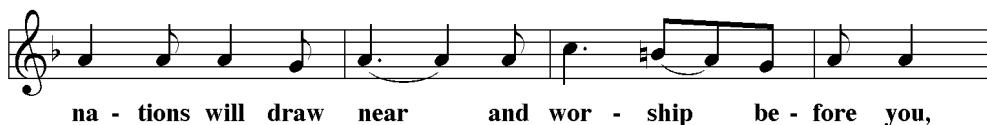
**and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Faith comes from what is heard,

**and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

## SCRIPTURE SONG

WOV p. 47



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<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.

## PSALM 23

*Read responsively*

LBW p. 225

*You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though 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.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
**“Surely your 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

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<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.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

WOV p. 48

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!*

*Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to You!*

*Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!*

GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<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 of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *“Lost and Found”*

*Be sure to pick up today’s coloring and activity sheets that go with “The Cross and Me” Children’s Sermon series for Lent. It goes with the Lenten devotional given to our elementary children this year. Email the church if you miss out on a Sunday when you are gone. Copies of the resources will be sent as PDF’s.*

#### PROCLAMATION

HYMN

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

*LBW #448*

**1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
 that saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found;  
 Was blind, but now I see.**

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below,  
will be forever mine.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

WOV p. 49-50

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.  
**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
**pray in the Holy Spirit.**  
 Keep yourselves in the love of God;  
**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.  
 Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*Silence for reflection and self examination.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
 known and unknown, things done and left undone.**  
**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
 to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness and remission of all our sins. **AMEN.**

PEACE

WOV p. 50

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.  
 The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**Peace be with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

WOV p. 50

OFFERTORY

WOV p. 50-51

*Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 Yours the hosannas, the dying, rebirth.  
 Ours the rejoicing for nature reclaimed;  
 Ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
 Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
 Yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,  
**in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from  
 idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we  
 give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS

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. 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. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. 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.**

#### 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### BLESSING

God, the giver of love,  
 † Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
 and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
 bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

#### HYMN

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*

*LBW #296, vs. 1, 4-6*

**1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
 but that thy blood was shed for me,**



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

#### **DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

*Serving in mission together: Pastor Laura Cavendish and the members of St. Paul*  
6046 St. Paul Rd., Ashville, OH 43103 ● 740-983-3188  
[www.stpaulashville.org](http://www.stpaulashville.org) ● Pastor's Cell 937-248-9821

*Please take advantage of the worship stream if you are sick. Please mask if you have been closely exposed to someone with a virus. We will be passing the offering plates again. Sanitizer will still be available in the pews.*