

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5322 PALMS ROAD, CASCO TWP., MI 48064

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19, 2023 – 9:30 A.M.

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## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

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

1--God, whose al - might - y word, cha - os and dark - ness heard, and took their flight;  
Hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the gos - pel day, sheds not its glo - rious ray,  
let there be light.

2--Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing, heal-ing and sight;  
Health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il - lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind  
let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796 Public Domain

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

*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. **C: Amen.**

## 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **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—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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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

### CHILDREN'S SONG: What A Mighty God We Serve

**REFRAIN: What a might - y God we serve! What a might - y God we serve!  
Angels bow be-fore him, heav-en and earth a-dore him; what a might - y God we serve!**

*Leader: Do we serve a mighty God say AMEN,*      **Congregation: AMEN**

*Leader: Do we serve a mighty God say Oh yeah !*      **Congregation: Oh Yeah !**

**Leader: AMEN,**      **Congregation: AMEN . .**      **Leader: Oh Yeah! . . .**

**Congregation: Oh yeah! . What a mighty God we serve!**

**REFRAIN: What a might - y God we serve! What a might - y God we serve!  
Angels bow be-fore him, heav-en and earth a-dore him; what a might - y God we serve!**

Words and Music: Traditional African folksong Public Domain

## THE SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: Amazing Grace ELW#779

1) A-maz - ing 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 re - lieved  
How pre - cious did, that grace ap-pear, the hour I first be-lieved.

4) The Lord has prom-ised good to me; his word my hope se-cures . .  
He will my shield and por-tion be, as long as life en-dures.

Words: John Newton, 1725-1807; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835;  
arr. Edwin O. Excell , 1851-1921, alt Public Domain

**THE CREED**    P: Let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

**C: 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 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**

## THE 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*....

And those we name now out loud, in our hearts,

Or add in the comment section at this time. (pause for names to be added)

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.**

## THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**P:** I invite you, at this time, to make a gesture of peace to your siblings in Christ.

## THE THANK OFFERING

*For those who desire to make a financial offering you may drop them off at the offering station before or after service. You may also go to [www.stpaulscasco.com](http://www.stpaulscasco.com) and click on the donate icon at any time or mail them to the church during the week.*

**THE OFFERING PRAYER** P: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**C: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever. **C: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER sing**

**C: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**THE MEAL** P: All those who believe in the promise are invited to partake in God's amazing grace  
at this time.

### **COMMUNION SONG: People Need the Lord**

1) Ev-'ry day, they pass me by . . . I-can-see it in their eyes . . . emp-ty peo-ple filled with care .  
Head-ed who knows where . . . . . On-they-go through pri-vate pain . . . liv-ing fear to fear . . .  
Laugh-ter hides the si-lent cries . . . only Je-sus hears . . . . .

**REFRAIN: Peo-ple need the Lord . . . . . peo-ple need the Lord . . . . .**

**At-the-end of bro-ken dreams . . . He's the o-pen door . . . . .**

**Peo-ple need the Lord . . . . . peo-ple need the Lord . . . . .**

**When will we re-al-ize . . . peo-ple need, the Lord.**

2) We-are-called to take His light . . . to-a-world where wrong seems right . . .

What-could-be too great a cost . . . for-shar-ing life with one who's lost? . . .

Through-His-love our hearts can feel . . . all the grief they bear . . . . .

They-must-hear the words of life . . . on-ly we can share . . . . . **REFRAIN**

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### **COMMUNION, POST COMMUNION LITURGY**

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace. **C: Amen**

**DOXOLOGY - Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here  
below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.** Public Domain

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** P: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have  
tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear  
the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and  
be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C: Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: Awake O Sleeper Rise from Death ELW#452**

1) A-wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light . .  
So learn his love, its length and breadth, its full-ness, depth, and height.

3) There is one bod-y and one hope, one Spir-it and one call . .  
One Lord, one faith, and one bap-tism, one God who made us all.

5) For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con-querred in the strife . .  
A-wake, a-rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Words: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984; Music: Carl G Glaser, 1784-1829 ©1980 Augsburg Publishing House;  
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**DISMISSAL** P: Go in peace. Serve in Love. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*Additional Reading for this week-- - Psalm 23*

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*Lenten Soup Supper each Wed. at 6:00 p.m.*

*~ ~ everyone welcome ~ ~*

*(Sign up on the bulletin board for food donations under  
group hosting or the week that works for you.)*

*Wednesday Lenten Worship*

*March 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Lenten Series: Jerusalem at Passover - A Lenten Tour*