

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

www.stpaulspgh.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 19, 2023 • 10:45am
Celebrating: The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo
Preaching: The Rev. Noah H. Evans

God loves you, no exceptions.

You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities, and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity/expression, and with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

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Thank you!

Preludes:

Aria, Six Short Pieces for Organs

African American Testament on Deep River and Steal Away

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Jeffrey L. Nall (b. 1957)

Welcome and Greetings

Hymn in Procession: Awake, O sleeper, rise from death

Hymnal 547

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Kyrie eleison

Hymnal S 96

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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.” 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.’ 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.” 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?” 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” 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.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 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.” 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.” 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.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Please join in singing – turn to the back of the leaflet for music)

Plainsong, Tone II.1

Sequence Hymn: My Shepherd will supply my need, v. 3

Hymnal 664

*The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.*

*There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.*

The Gospel

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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."

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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 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.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Noah H. Evans

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Prayers of the People are written by the 2023 Holy Land pilgrims. Respond with, "Rekindle our dreams, and ignite our souls."

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

Give to St. Paul's

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Thank you!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem: The Lord's My Shepherd
William Whittingham & anon., based on Psalm 23

Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982), Scottish Psalter (1650),

Linda Williams, Conductor

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more my dwelling place shall be.*

Presentation Hymn: How wondrous and great thy works, v. 1

Hymnal 533

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A
The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People, Hymnal S 130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

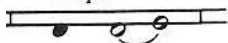
The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever. *Amen.*

People



A - men.

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S 164

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Everyone is welcome to receive communion. Please come forward to receive through the center aisle, returning through the side aisles. You are welcome to receive just the bread, or the bread and the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please take the bread in your hand and sip the wine from the chalice. For sanitary reasons, we ask you not to dip the host in the wine. If you would like communion brought to you, please let a greeter know.

Healing Prayer

Before or after receiving Communion, you are invited to go to one of the two prayer stations on either side of the altar for laying on of hands and prayers for healing. You may ask for a prayer for yourself, someone you care for, or a general prayer. You may stand or sit for prayer. You will be asked if you wish to be anointed with oil and if you would like a hand placed on your shoulder. Our clergy or trained lay healing prayer ministers will keep all prayer requests in private confidence.

Communion Hymn: God of mercy, God of grace

Hymnal 538

Post Communion Prayer—said together

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn in Procession: O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal 493

Dismissal

The worship is ended, the service begins.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Improvisation on Azmon

Music Notes

The Psalm for this fourth Sunday in Lent shapes much of Sunday's music. The pastoral Psalm 23 is perhaps the first Bible text we remember from childhood, from Sunday School memorization to music and hymns based on that Psalm. When my family took long road trips, my father led us in reciting, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." When we got to "though I walk through the shadow of death," I redoubled my prayer, asking God to let my mother drive instead of dad. He thought that passing a car on a three-lane highway was his sacred privilege – in spite of periodic center double yellow lines that prohibit passing. When mom sat behind the wheel, the later Psalm text was realized: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

As is our Lenten practice, we will sing, without organ accompaniment, the Sequence hymn, "My Shepherd will supply my need." The musical setting is from Virgil Thomson's choral arrangement of verse 3. The Psalm's transcription is by Isaac Watts: "No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home."

The anthem setting of the same Psalm by Carl Mueller uses the Scottish Psalter transcription. Compare Watts's tender point of view to the more austere close of the Scottish Psalter, "And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be." The Psalter's focus was metrical transcription; Isaac Watts' transcription reveals his poetic soul.

May your road trip through life be long, informed by my father's risk-taking and greatness of heart, and comforted by my mother's wisdom and superior driving skills.

Contributions are given, to the glory of God, in loving memory of Betty Love Culbertson and Lois J. Stark.

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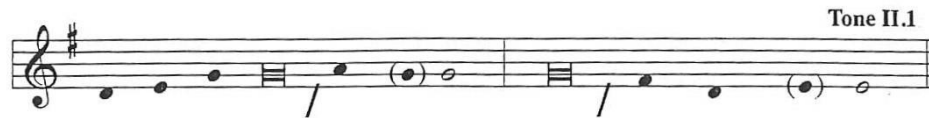
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A clergy person will either answer or call you as soon as possible.*

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St. Paul's
newsletter!**



Fourth Sunday in Lent – RCL Year “A”
Psalm 23



- 1 The Lord is my / shepherd;*
I shall / not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green / pastures*
and leads me beside / still waters.
- 3 He revives my / soul*
and guides me along right pathways for / his Name’s sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 run/ning over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my / life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD / for ever.