

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## “Laetare Sunday”

March 19, 2023

10:00 AM

Welcome to St. Paul's

Our mission is to be a loving, accepting Christian community serving all people.



*Son, Rise – by the Rev. T. Denise Anderson*

*Inspired by John 9:1-7*

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### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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# Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Homilist today is the Very Rev. Rik Rasmussen*

*Celebrant today is the Very Rev. Rik Rasmussen*

*Organist: Justin Pratt*

**Organ Prelude:**

**Processional Hymn**

**490**

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain:**

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be the God of our salvation:

*People:* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

*Celebrant:* If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1John 1:8,9

**The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

**All:** God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

**The Absolution**

*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 S-86**

**Kyrie eleison. (3X)**

**Christe eleison. (3X)**

**Kyrie eleison. (3x)**

**The Collect for 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The 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 running 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.

## The Second Lesson

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

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. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
 Rise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn

**645**

**1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
 whose goodness faileth never;  
 I nothing lack if I am his,  
 and he is mine for ever.**

**2 Where streams of living water flow,  
 my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
 and where the verdant pastures grow,  
 with food celestial feedeth.**

**3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
 but yet in love he sought me,  
 and on his shoulder gently laid,  
 and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
 with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
 thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
 thy cross before to guide me.**

**5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
 thy unction grace bestoweth;  
 and oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**6 And so through all the length of days  
 thy goodness faileth never:  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house for ever.**

## The Gospel

**John 9:1-41**

*Clergy:* 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.”

*Clergy:* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Homily**

**The Very Rev. Rik Rasmussen**

**Interlude:**

## **The Nicene 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** (*Enriching our Worship form V*)

*Celebrant:* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's church and the world.

*Intercessor:* Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Keep in safety those who travel especially the refugees escaping war and famine and all who are in peril especially the people of the Ukraine.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Whom shall we pray for this day? (*pause*). Lord in your mercy.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Hear us as we remember those who have died, whom shall we remember this day? (*pause*) Grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Special Thanksgiving**

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever he may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Offertory**

*The Loose Offering today will go to Episcopal Community Services. Bishop Megan designated March 19<sup>th</sup> as ECS Sunday. If you want to donate by check please put ECS in the memo line.*

*Celebrant:* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into His courts with praise.

## **Offertory Hymn**

**429**

1 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;  
and when my voice is lost in death,  
praise shall employ my nobler powers.  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past  
while life and thought and being last,  
or immortality endures.

2 How happy they whose hopes rely  
on Israel's God, who made the sky  
and earth and seas with all their train;  
whose truth for ever stands secure,  
who saves the oppressed, and feeds the poor.  
And none shall find his promise vain.

3 The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;  
the Lord supports the fainting mind  
and sends the laboring conscience peace.  
He helps the stranger in distress,  
the widowed and the fatherless,  
and grants the prisoner sweet release.

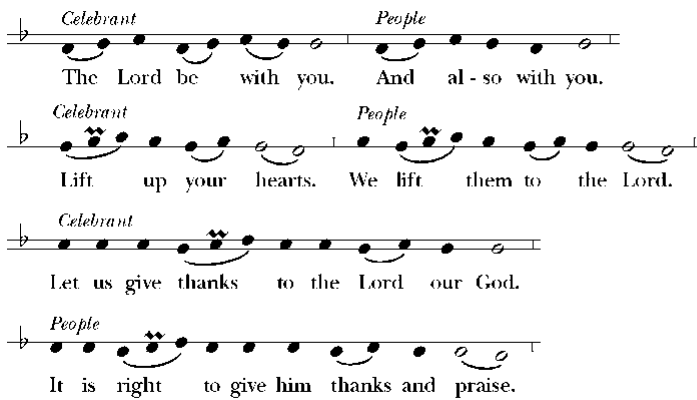
4 I'll praise him while he lends me breath;  
and when my voice is lost in death,  
praise shall employ my nobler powers.  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past  
while life and thought and being last,  
or immortality endures.

*Celebrant:* Please join me as we give thanks for the gifts given this week saying:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Give praise all creatures here below  
Give praise above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Enriching our Worship Prayer 1)



### *Celebrant:*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

### *Sanctus/Benedictus*

S-124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### *The Celebrant continues:*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Baptizer and blessed Paul, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

**AMEN.**

*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to sing:

*Celebrant and People*

S-119

**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**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem**

**S161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those who wish to receive communion are invited to come forward. Please indicate if you would like to receive the bread only or receive in both kinds by intinction (dipping of the host by the clergy), or by drinking from the common cup. The silver chalice has consecrated wine and the pottery chalice has consecrated grape juice. Prayers for healing are available at the Baptismal Font during Communion*

## **Eucharistic Visitor Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

**In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Solemn Prayer**

*Celebrant:* Let us bow down before the Lord our Maker.

*Celebrant:* Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

**538**

**1 God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of thy face.  
Shine upon us, Savior, shine,  
fill thy Church with light divine,  
and thy saving health extend  
unto earth's remotest end.**

**2 Let thy people praise thee, Lord;  
be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing  
glory to their Savior King;  
let all be, below, above,  
one in joy, and light, and love.**

**The Dismissal**

*Officiant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Organ Postlude:**

✠ ✠ ✠

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

*Rector: The Rev. Rik Rasmussen*

*Associates: The Rev. Karen Lawler*

*The Rev. Anne Slakey*

*Music Director: Justin Pratt*

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**Announcements!**

**Our service is streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Go to our Facebook page to join us in worship:**

**(<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsSacramento/live/>). Our YouTube channel is:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjU73KRrR-y3gc9n-gr80A>**

**If you know any who would like to be added to our email list and receive the program each week, please send their email address to: [st1849paul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st1849paul@sbcglobal.net)**

**Please join us next week for the Baptism of Beatrice Healy at the 10 AM Service. Beatrice wanted to be baptized near a feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> is the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin – exactly 9 months before Christmas. Please join us next week to welcome Beatrice into the household of God.**

**The Loose Offering today will go to Episcopal Community Services. Bishop Megan designated March 19<sup>th</sup> as ECS Sunday. If you want to donate by check please put ECS in the memo line. St. Paul's has been blessed to receive ECS ministry grants in the past – Hope's Space is supported, in part, by a grant from ECS.**

**We will have a discussion group based on the Lenten Devotional "Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith" from Sanctified Art on Wednesdays after the 12:10 service.**

***Announcements continue on the next page...***

**Hope's Space book group!**

**What:** Our first read will be *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley, a 2022 New York Times Bestseller.

**When:** Monday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning February 6, on Zoom.

**Why:** to hear stories from someone whose life experiences may be different than ours and to move from Cole's stories to a process of story sharing about her themes including Dignity, Wonder, Belonging, Fear, Lament, Justice.

**Our next Vestry Meeting will be Tuesday 28 March at 5:15 PM. Please let Rev. Rik know if you would like to attend.**

**175 Anniversary Planning meeting:**

A meeting to continue planning for the 175th anniversary (demisemiseptcentennial) is scheduled for Tuesday evening March 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Church. This will be presented in the hybrid format, those who can are invited to meet in person at the church, those unable to attend in person may sign in via the zoom link attached. All are invited to participate in the planning of this celebration.

- 1) We will receive progress reports from subgroups that have volunteered to research aspects of specific events
- 2) We will continue to accept ideas to include in the celebration
- 3) We will continue to develop the celebration plans.

Please join us in person or on line.

Doug Clagh

St. Paul's Episcopal is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: St. Paul's Episcopal's Personal Meeting Room**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2753851976>**

**Meeting ID: 275 385 1976**

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