



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*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.

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.

**\*Hymn** "God, Whose Almighty Word" **LW#673**

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.**

**\*KYRIE** **ELW p. 184**

**\*Canticle of Praise** "Glory to God" **ELW p.185**

**\*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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EASTER LILIES

If you would like to make a donation for the purchase of Easter lilies, in honor or memory of a family member or loved one, please complete the form located in the narthex and place your order form in the envelope to Nalani. Thank you.

### CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

We need your help in selling tickets! Ask your friends or family members if they'd like a ticket. Even if folks say "no", the important thing is they have been asked. Thank you for your help.

### SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Brochures with regard to summer events are located in the narthex. Don't forget the church helps with the registration fee and, if you are sending multiple children, additional arrangements can be made.

### PERSONAL CARE KITS

St. Paul's W-ELCA are collecting the following items for Lutheran World Relief during lent. Please place your donated items on the south side pew.

Towels: Size 20" x 40" to 27" x 52",  
 light-weight, dark colors  
 preferred

Soap: Bath size bars

Combs: Sturdy

Nail Clippers: Metal, with or without nail file

Tooth Brushes

Do you have a Thrivent Action Grant you would be willing to designate toward this project? If so, please see Nalani.

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" **ELW#661**

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Presiding Minister: Chris Hallemeier;  
Preacher; Dennis Hallemeier; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Carolyn  
Dougherty

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker,  
Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Wynn Liersch, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman,  
Debra Welch, Patrick Reardon, Denny Robinson, Mike & Bea Dwyer,  
Bob Weibel, Pete Nelson.

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale,  
Matthew Dutton.

### CALENDAR

Wed., Mar. 22	Mid-Week Lenten Service	7:00 PM
Thurs., Mar.23	Quilting	9:00 AM
Sun., Mar. 26	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Firemen's Spaghetti Dinner	11:00 AM

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

*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.*

#### 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.**

### Psalm 23

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

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

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely 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

*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.*

### Ephesians 5:8-14

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

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

Distribution

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.  
Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Merciful God, receive our prayer)

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

\*Offertory Hymn "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

**We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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.  
Amen.

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 190

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 190

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

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 Acclamation** "Let Your Steadfast Love" **ELW p. 189**

**GOSPEL READING**

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

**The holy gospel according to John 9:1-41**

**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 <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.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Dennis Hallemeier

**\*Hymn**

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

**ELW #768**

**\*Apostles' Creed**

**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.**