

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1655 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please prepare yourself for worship

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Please stand as able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

ELW #673

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

☩ Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMONETTE

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

℣ A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He 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." ¹³Then 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

℣ A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

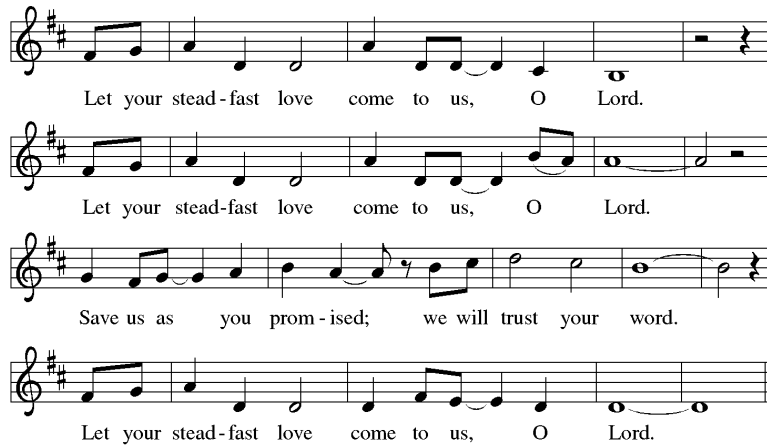
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

℣ The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand as able.*



GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P The holy gospel according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P ¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, **“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”** ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.”

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, **“Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”** ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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.” ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So 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.”** ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, **“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”** ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, **"You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."** ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, **"You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?"** And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn of the Day:

"You Are Mine"

ELW #581

Please stand as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Console and strengthen those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill. Accompany all who suffer especially Sarah W., Shirley, Gail, Colleen, Bev, Doug, Gene, Lee, Pat B., Candy, Noreen, Elaine, Carolyn, Ruth, Alice, our homebound members: Marguerite, Lynn and Holly and to those we now name in our hearts or on our lips...(pause). We pray for veterans, and for those currently serving in our armed forces, including Lt. Laurin Smith Teegarden. Please grant them respite and renewal. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A For what else shall we pray? *(pause for individual petitions from the congregation)* Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P 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.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING *ushers come forward*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please stand as able.*

P God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Come forward for communion or blessing.

Communion Hymn:

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

ELW #779

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand as able.*

P Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn:

"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

ELW #722

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

For Your Information

Welcome and Thank You!

We are so happy to have Pastor Joe McGarry here joining us and leading us in worship today. Thank you to David Marottolo for being our organist.

First Communion Classes starting TODAY

Pastor Joe is going to lead first communion classes on Sunday, March 19 and Sunday, March 26, at **9 AM** in the Church Council Room. Participants will make their first Communion on Palm Sunday - April 2. Email or call the office if you want your children to be included.

Easter Egg Hunt Egg-stravaganza

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt is back again! Join us on Saturday April 1st (no joke) starting at 3pm for this fun event. Any and all donations - candy will be appreciated. Leading up to this we will need egg stuffers and candy to make this a success. Call 860-667-2291 to help us get a head count for the hunt.

Newington Food Pantry/ Newington Human Services – ministry support

Currently, the focus is on laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. They are **not** in need of soup, canned Goya beans or canned vegetables. Please remember that any donation is a good donation.

Clothing Shed – ministry support

Donating your excess clothing to the St Pauly shed is a win-win for the environment, people in need, and the church. OSLC **receives funding** for donated clothing and we help keep clothing out of landfills! Accepted items: clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, towels, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. Let your friends and neighbors know about this meaningful project.

'We Can' for Calumet – ministry support

Tired of returning those empty cans and bottles? Bring them here or contact Jan Levett OSLC is collecting bottles & cans for Calumet. Help support this great cause.

Next week

We are looking forward to having Pastor Joe McGarry leading us in worship.

Worship Assistants and Contacts

Thank you to all of our extra readers!

Organist: David Marottolo

Assisting Minister: Joe Drouin

Lector: Joe Drouin

Altar Guild: Pat Mahoney

Flowers: Lisa Jaksina

Usher: Dave Hourigan

Fellowship Host: Joyce Doran and Kathy Fichman

Counters: Andrew Manke and Tim Hutvagner

Facebook Live:

Pastor: Joseph McGarry (on-call), (315) 935-7240, joe@pastorjoemcgarry.com

Council President: Robin Aldieri, (860) 559-8480, or RSALdieri@icloud.com

Custodian: Kevin Carragher, (860) 718-5270

OSLC Website: oursaviorslc.org

