

# Lent 4 — March 15, 2026

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Confession and Absolution

Pg 94-95

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**C Amen.**

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C Amen.**

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**All: 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.**

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God Forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

**Opening Hymn Give to Our God Immortal Praise ELW 848**

**Apostolic Greeting ELW Pg. 138**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C And also with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and  
praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious  
Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

ELW Pg. 138-139

L The Lord be with you

C And also with you

L 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 his 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.  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C Thanks be to God!

## Psalm 23 *chanted*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD <sup>l</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>l</sup> be in want.
- <sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down <sup>l</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>l</sup> side still waters.**
- <sup>3</sup> You restore my <sup>l</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>l</sup> for your name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>l</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>l</sup> comfort me.**
- <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>l</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>l</sup> running over.
- <sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>l</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>l</sup> LORD forever.**

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> 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; rather, 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." Holy wisdom, holy word.

**C Thanks be to God**

**Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW Pg. 142**

**Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love**

**Holy Gospel according to John in the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter. C 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 he." <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." 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, 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 who were with 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.” This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

ELW 452

## 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.**



## Prayers of the Church

L: Blessed to be able to see God's work in the world, we now pray for open eyes and open hearts. Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the Church, the Body of Christ, to see clearly the opportunities to strive for justice, peace, mutual respect, and a faith that bears fruit in a broken world, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the willingness to see the abuses of power around the world, and the ability to see an alternative way to live in peace and compassion, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For eyes to see both the destruction of our natural world, and the many ways we can learn to be earth's caretakers, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For a clear perception that traumatized children carry the burden of their hurt into adulthood, and ways to protect them, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the spiritual insight that each life bears the fingerprint of God, and is meant to be cherished and loved, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

AM: For the vision to see new ways to have our gratitude for our blessings turn into generosity in sharing, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

L: For all this, and all else we need, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of God's peace.*

*The offering is received*

## **Anthem Who Is He? Words: Nancy Price & Don Besig Music: Don Besig**

Who is he sitting at the table breaking bread with those he calls his friends? Who is he speaking words of comfort as his time among them nears the end? Who is he walking in the garden as he goes to face what is to come? Who is he praying in the moonlight: "Father now let your will be done"? Can he be a prophet? Can he be the Lord? He seems like such an ordinary man; is he something more? Who is he going up the hillside crowned with thorns and carrying a cross? Who is he taking on this burden? Why must he die? Why must he die to pay the cost? When we come to know him. When we can believe, we'll see he is no ordinary man. He has set us free, he is Lord, he is our Redeemer, through his death he cleanses us from sin. He is Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We will walk in faith. We will walk in faith and follow him.

## Offertory Hymn

**ELW 188**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## Offertory Prayer

### Great Thanksgiving – page 144

L The Lord be with you.                   **C And also with you.**

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

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Proper Preface is chanted.*

L 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:

### **Sanctus Pg. 144**

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### 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**

### Agnus Dei Pg. 146

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

**Communion is distributed.**

### Communion Music

## Post Communion Prayer

### Benediction

L 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 grant you peace C **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

Lord of Light

ELW 688

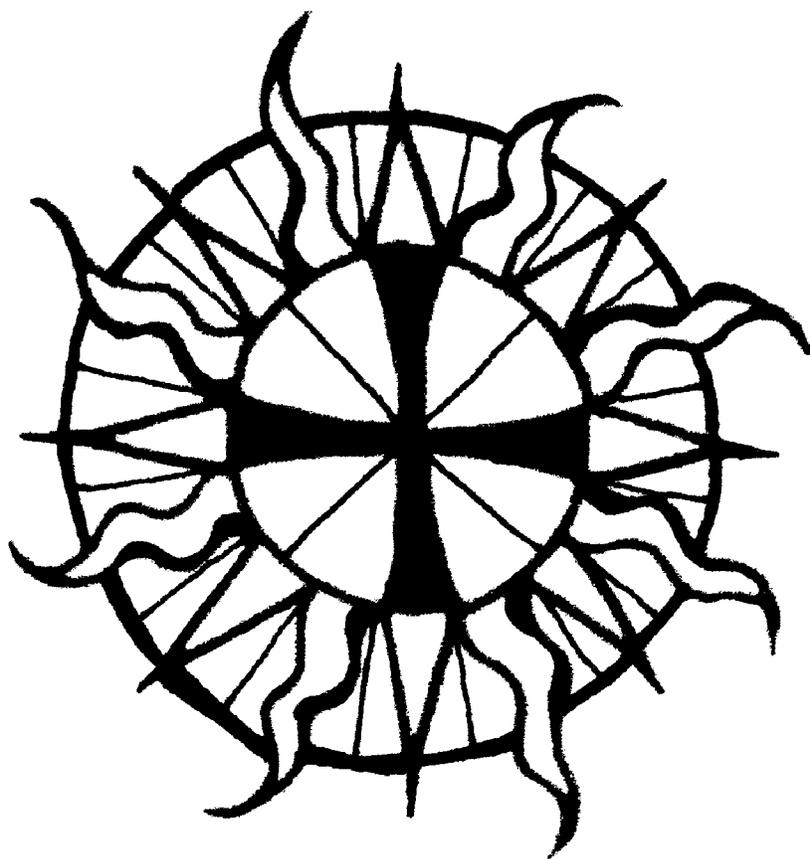
### Dismissal

AM Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.

C Thanks be to God

### Postlude

*Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.*



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott  
Connie Aparo  
Charlie Blakeslee  
Kathy Ann Campbell  
Angelo & Nicole Capasso  
  
Carol Cianciolo  
Emily Decker  
J.J. Eby  
Judy Elliott  
Diane Engle

Sawitzke  
Jean Schlapfer  
  
Sara Seelye  
Jan & Cindy Smith  
Paul Smith  
Sigrid Smitley  
Lori Sola  
Deb & Jon Sterling  
Tom Sterling Sr.

Jan Eucalitto  
Bruce & Liz Falls  
Danise Hall  
Renate Higgins  
Kathleen Hilton  
Shannon Hilton

RuthAnn Stone  
Patricia Switzer  
Gloria Thibault  
Lucille Videtto  
Carol Vrlik

Glenn Hornfischer  
Rusty Judd  
Brian Kiernan  
Marge Kiernan  
Marilyn Killingbeck  
Edwin Leifert  
John Lewis

Eveyn Walters  
Sue Watkins  
Kim Weissman  
Bruce Yauney  
Clarence & Priscilla

David Little  
Rebecca Little  
Kari Machowski  
Audrey Marquard  
Abigail Marine

Ed  
Jen O.  
Jaiden  
Steve  
Lou W.

Richard Marine  
Janis Martin  
Gil & Marilyn Martin  
Michael Meyers  
Brigitte Mueller

Todd  
Robert K.  
Terry  
Hagbard  
Peanut

Bob Murphy  
Barbara Nalette  
Karen Ness  
Tom O'Brien  
Karen Pagano  
Melissa Pilbin

Diane L.  
Holly L.  
Al & Mary  
Isaac

Lisa & Dennis Polzun  
Ed & Susan Regner  
Baerbel Roehl  
Patricia & Richard

### **Our Nursing Home Members**

Dee Gammon  
Midge Rosenbeck  
Mae Fay  
Francine Ahrens  
Betty Hilton  
Walter Joray  
Daine Wright  
Eleanor Klonoski

### **Our Military Friends**

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn  
Eric Beyus  
Major Zachary Fulton  
Brandan Holbrook  
Jonathan Connell  
Tom Gregg, Jr.  
Eric Bremer  
Peter Hutchinson  
SPC Dominic Boscarino  
PVT Noah Braatz  
PVT 2 Christian Braatz  
Aiden Avenia USCG  
2nd Lt. Ben Speaker  
Pvt. Noah Roy

## Around the Church

Event	Date	Time
Blood Drive	3/17	1 pm
M & W Breakfast	3/18	8:30 am
Midweek Lent Devotions and Potluck	3/19	6 pm
Empty Bowls	3/19	5 pm
Women of the ELCA	3/23	7 pm

### ***Bible Study***

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm

In person Bible Study Wednesdays  
10:00 am

### **Wednesdays**

Tai Chi 11:00 am

Quilting Group 1:00 pm

### **Guest preacher**

**Bishop Pipho will preach on  
Palm Sunday with a special coffee  
hour to follow.**

### **Offerings Summary:**

<b>Needed Weekly</b>	<b>\$6,290</b>
<b>Received</b>	<b>\$4,730</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$1,560)</b>
<b>YTD shortfall</b>	<b>(\$23,016)</b>

## **Minimalist bulletin**

Prelude

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn

Apostolic Greeting

Glory or Kyrie Pg 138

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation Pg. 142

Reading of the Holy Gospel

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Creed

Prayers of the People

Peace

A Capella Choir Anthem

The Offering is received

Offertory Hymn ELW 140

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus pg. 144

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) pg. 146

Communion is Distributed

Post-communion prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Dismissal

Postlude

### **Staff**

**The Rev. Dr. G. Scott Cady**

**Music Director Marcia Newcome**

## Around the Church

Anyone wishing to be a Sunday helper next year please sign up sheet in narthex or contact me.

Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.

Our new website is up. Please check it out. It should help you stay informed. If you have suggestions for any improvements, please let us know.

[www.stpaulstorrington.com](http://www.stpaulstorrington.com)

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

837 Charles St., Torrington 06790

### **The Fellowship Committee presents**



**Chicken Lombardy, Rice Pilaf, Veggies,  
Salad, Bread, Dessert**

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**

Fellowship – 5:15pm      Dinner – 6pm

Eat-In or Take Out

**\$16.00 – Adults    \$10.00 – Kids 5-10**

Food, Fellowship, Drawing, Fun!

Tickets available on Sundays before & after service  
or @ Church Office info. 860-482-3555