

*Fourth Sunday
of Lent*



March 27, 2022

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 27, 2022



“Returning to the Lord”

Prelude Music

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

P We begin worship today in the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and invites us to journey to the cross.

C Amen.

P Together, let's confess our brokenness to God. Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you, we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and help us return to you again. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God will be saved. When we arrive at this cross, we see the incredible love God has for us. And because of that love through Jesus' sacrifice ✝, your sins are forgiven. May you celebrate that you are unconditionally loved and forgiven by God.

C Amen

Opening Hymn: LBW 499

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



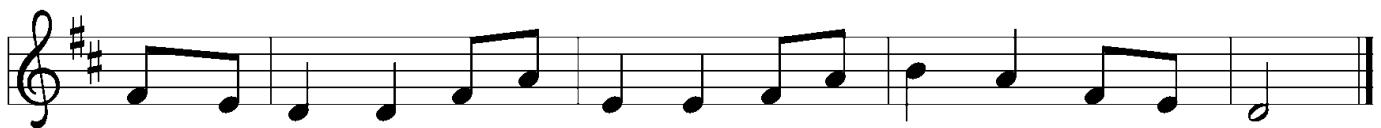
- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Apostolic Greeting

P 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.

Children's Time

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32 (read responsively)

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

A Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

A While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

C For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

A Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

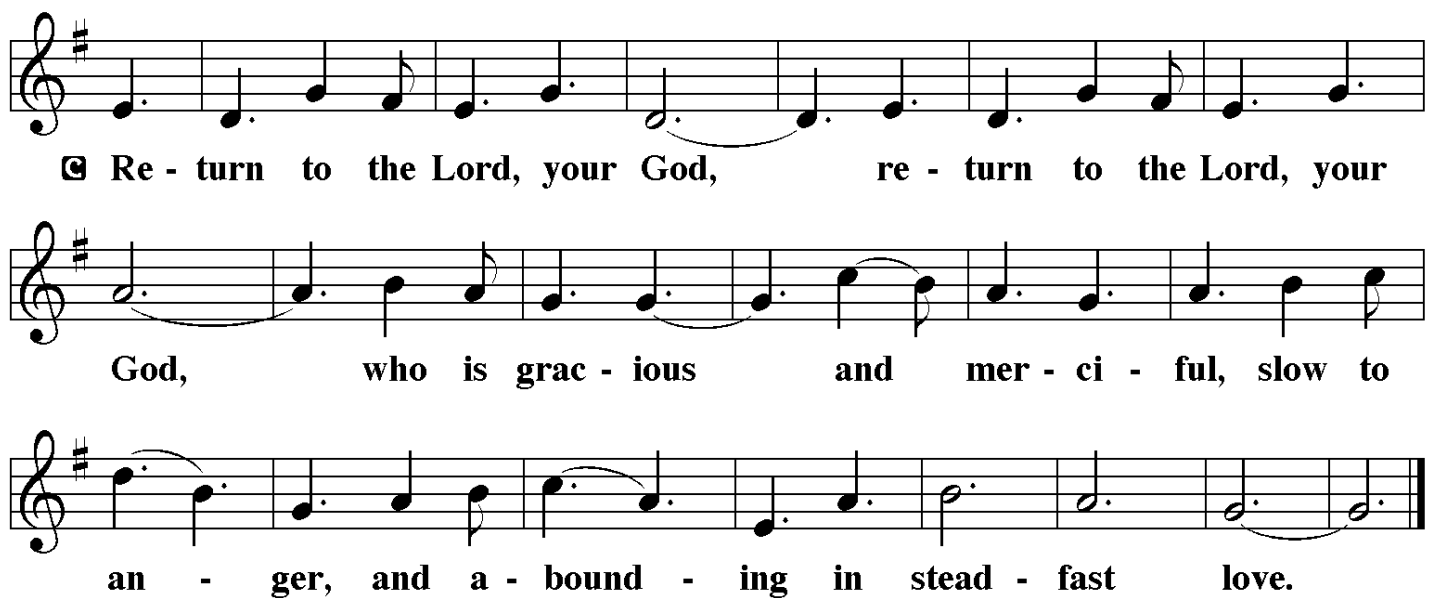
C Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

A You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

- A Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
- C **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- A Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.
- A The Word of the Lord
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th Chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two

sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon: "Can You Imagine" Pastor Steve Biegner

1. Give.....and get walked on
2. See someone returning
3. Be filled with compassion
4. Celebrate the return
5. Help others forgive too!

Hymn of the Day: WOV 734

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



- 1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(Please kneel or sit as you are able)*

C receive our prayer.

A Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Gracious God, we ask for your hand of protection to be with all of those affected by the war in Ukraine. Bring peace to our world and help us to be instruments to make that happen. Let light overcome the evil. Give leaders

across the globe hearts of compassion, understanding and grace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving, especially the people on our Prayer List and those we now name either silently or aloud. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation, especially the Burrito Project, the Daily Bread Food Truck, and Tiger's Den Food Pantry. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Offering Music and Prayer

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

With our return to in-person worship, we thought we would let you know about a couple of options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not be able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen

Dialogue and Preface

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 God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

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

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.

Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the assisting minister holding the wine. Children are welcome!

Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C Amen.

Benediction

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: WOV 721

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh

Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

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Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Let us go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 27-April 3, 2022

TODAY: 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship, Communion, Sunday School
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Monday: 4:30-6:00 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal-Share at St. Paul's

Tuesday: 10:00 am: Bible Study

Wednesday: 8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
6:00 pm: Alanon

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship
3:00 pm: Piette Bridal Shower

Sunday: 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship, Communion, Sunday School
11:00 am: New Missionary Meeting
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Prayer List: In our congregational family: (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Neal DeLeo: Bristol village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
Richard Elliott: 34 Pino Alto Court, Williamsville, NY 14221
Chad Israel and Hayley Israel
David Lampe: 73 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214
Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221
Lois O'Brian: 107 Fairbanks Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14223
Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105
David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14031

Prayer List: In our and extended family: Thomas Maier; Ira Striejewske

Deacon Schedule: 3/27: Barbara Walter

Usher Schedule: 3/27: Bob Brown and Jeff Mols; 4/3: Mike and Michele Degen

Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine: If you would like to donate, you can go to donate.lwr.org for additional information and the donation form, or mail your donation to P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. You can also call 1-800-597-5972 to make a secure credit card donation.

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: 10:00 am. Masks are now optional while you are in the building. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also being livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

WNY Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The Pantry hours for April are: Thursday 4/7 and 4/21 from 3:00-6:30 pm and Saturday 4/9 and 4/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for April are: sugar, granola bars, snacks, and crackers.

Daily Bread Food Truck: The Daily Bread Food Truck is continuing their "give one" season and is parked in the St. Paul's driveway next to the flag pole each Monday night giving hot meals out from 4:30-6:00 pm. If you would like to help give out food during our Meal-Share night, please contact the office at 716-835-0407. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

New Missionary Meeting: Sunday, April 3 following the 10:00 am Worship Service.

Conversations around the Russian/Ukrainian War: Hosted by Craig Maefs—Sunday, April 24 at 11:00 am in the Gathering Area. Additional details next week.

St. Paul's Sunday Series: What's the Brain Got to Do With it??? ***Everything!!!*** Sue Epstein, MS, MEd., will host "Connecting All the Dots: Physical Activity, Nourishment, Spirituality, and Alternative Reinforcers" beginning Sunday, April 24. Additional details next week.

Holy Week Schedule

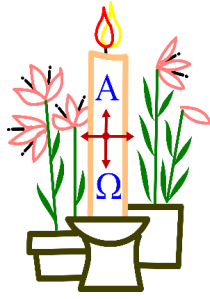
Palm Weekend: Saturday, April 9: 5:00 pm Worship Service at Amherst Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 10: 10:00 am Worship Service at St. Paul's

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 14: 6:30 pm St. Paul's, "Dinner Church" with pot-luck
sinner and communion

Good Friday: Friday, April 15: 12:00 pm Service at Amherst Lutheran Church
Friday, April 15: 7:00 pm Service at St. Paul's

Easter: Sunday, April 17: 6:00 am Sunrise Worship Service at St. Paul's
Sunday, April 17: 10:00 am Easter Worship

Easter Plants



Help us make St. Paul's bright and beautiful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Orders need to be received by April 5th

Please pay as soon as possible

Lilies - \$10 each

Daffodils - \$10 each

Tulips - \$10 each

Please fill out a form for each order

_____ **Please deliver my plant to a shut-in member**

Check one:

Lily (white) _____

Daffodil (yellow) _____

Tulip (pink) _____

in memory of _____

by _____

OR

in honor of _____

by _____

OR

in celebration of _____

by _____



+ St. Paul's Mission +

To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Kathryn Francis

Vice-President: David Schunak

Treasurer: William Niblock

Secretary: Gerri Horton

*Janelle Andersen Susan Epstein Matt Fricano
Nick Hazlett Debbie Regan-Howe Robert Simpson*

Pastor Rev. Steve Biegner (868-1232 - cell)

E-mail: steve@stpaulseggertsville.org

Director of Music: Paul H. Storf

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.org

Telephone: (716) 835-0407

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org