Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 19, 2023 10:00 am St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Eggertsville Campus Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023



Prelude Music: Paul Storfer

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 find ourselves in the wilderness again, 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, then all who call out to God from the wilderness will feel and experience God's grace and peace. 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 97



Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

- P 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.

Children's Time

First Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

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.

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."

- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

- P The Holy Gospel according to John the Ninth Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

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

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."

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

Sermon





Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Holy Baptism



Presentation

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

Response: We present Riley Richard Grimes for Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

P Matthew and Kirsten, in Christian love you have presented Riley for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to help Riley grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P Dana and Grant, do you promise to nurture Riley in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of his baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- P People of God, do you promise to support Riley and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- C We do.

Prayers of the Church

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

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, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. 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 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 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.

Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- Р Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Riley who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away his sin by this cleansing water and bring him forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C Amen

Renunciation

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.

Profession

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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



Baptism

P Riley, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Laying on of Hands

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Riley: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- C Amen

Signing with the Cross

P Riley, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen

Giving of the Light

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



Welcome

- P Through Baptism, God has made Riley a new member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow missionary in God's church, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God. 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 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 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.
- 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: March 19-26, 2023

SUNDAY:	9:00 am: Multicultural Book Club
	10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
	10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion/Baptism of Riley Grimes
	10:00 am: Sunday School
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
Monday:	4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Meal Share
Tuesday:	10:00 am: Bible Study
	4:30 pm: Amherst Family Support Center Meeting
	5:30 pm: Burrito Project
Wednesday: 12:00 pm: Soup and Psalms	
	8:00 pm: AA Meeting
Thursday:	6:00 pm: Alanon
	7:30 pm: Choir Practice
Saturday:	9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at Amherst Lutheran Campus
	3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
	5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Campus In-Person Worship and Communion
Sunday:	9:00 am: Multicultural Book Club
	10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
	10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
	10:00 am: Sunday School
	1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

The Altar Flowers: Are given to the glory of God.

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)
Lee Abel: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
Robert Baus: 30 Westchester Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
Evelyn Berger: 644 Campbell Boulevard, Getzville, NY 14068
Neal DeLeo: Bristol Village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
*Janet Isaacs: #6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004
Omar Jenson: The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY 14580
Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221
*Jon Mott: Brookdale, 6076 Main Street, #B8, Williamsville, NY 14221

Deacon Schedule: 3/19: Barbara Walter; 3/26: John Schunak *Usher Schedule:* 3/19: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson; 3/26: Ben Brown & Jeff Mols Prayer List: In our congregational family and extended family (Names on this Prayer List will remain on the list for three weeks, unless the Church Office is advised they should remain longer) Joanna Heizmann; Joan Chatham; Jerry Bucklaew; Joe Falletta; Debbie Lingenfelter; Ira Striejewski; Thomas Maier; Maureen Kraus, Janet Mustard, and Sally O'Connell (Friends of Suzanne Gustafson); Rosemarie and John Burgholzer (Sponsors of Tiger's Den); Pastor Alan Anderson; Gary Schmidt; David Wolf; Patrick Irving, Jennifer Ryszkiewicz, Don Irving, and William Vogel (Friends of Sandy Simet)

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: With the addition of the Amherst Lutheran Campus (ALC) of St. Paul's, we now have two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Lutheran Campus, or Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

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, anyone associated with Amherst Lutheran Campus, or by referral. The remaining March pantry hours are: Thursday 3/30 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturday 3/25 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for March are: cans of fruit, especially pineapple; canned or dried beans; crackers and granola bars.

Daily Bread Food Truck: We are successful in our Monday Meal Share mission with the help of our donors and volunteers. For more information to volunteer or donate, please contact the church office at 716-835-0407 or email <u>dailybread4007@gmail.com</u>.

ALC Book Club: Please come and join us, all are welcome! The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the narthex at Amherst Lutheran Campus beginning at 7:15 pm. Upcoming Book Club meeting and reading selection: Thursday, April 13, reading "We are Not Like Them" by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza.

Book Club for Black History Month/Women's History Month: Meet Sundays 19, 26 and April 2 at 9am - 9:45am. Selections from the complete collection of Zora Neale Hurston's short stories <u>Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick</u>, edited by Genevieve West, Amistad (HarperCollins) 2020. We will read one story per week and talk about whether we liked it or not, how it makes us feel, black/white relationships in the stories and anything else the story makes you want to talk about. No lectures, no analysis. This format allows participants to pick and choose which Sundays they wish to attend the group.



SOUP AND PSALMS

Join Pastor Kristen on Wednesdays in March at 12:00 pm for a time of sharing soup and scripture.



2023 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, April 1: 5:00 pm at Amherst Lutheran Campus Sunday, April 2: 10:00 am at Eggertsville Campus

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6: 6:30 pm, Dinner Church at Eggertsville Campus

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7: 12:00 pm: Service at Eggertsville Campus 7:00 pm: Tenebrae Service at Eggertsville Campus

SATURDAY VIGIL

April 8: Easter Vigil: 5:00 pm at Amherst Lutheran Campus

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9: Sunrise Service: 6:00 am at Eggertsville Campus Easter Worship: 10:00 am at Eggertsville Campus



+ 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

Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon Janet Schmidt Robert Simpson Vanessa Solomon Scott Vahue

<u>Pastors</u>

Steve Biegner: Cell: 716-868-1232; Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.org Kristen Arends: Cell: 716-481-8728; Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

> <u>Directors of Music</u> Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) Adam Schmidt (ALC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u> June Piette

Youth Ministry

Adam Weber

<u>Digital Ministry</u>

Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary, and Judy Polowy E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.org Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org