

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

## **Canton, Ohio**



**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026**

**First Sunday in Lent with the Great  
Litany  
Holy Eucharist Rite I**

# Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

425 Cleveland Ave SW

Canton OH 44702

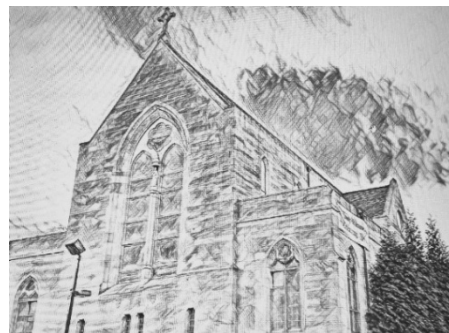
(330) 455-0286

Website: [www.stpaulscanton.org](http://www.stpaulscanton.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton>

e-mail: [stpaulsoffice@att.net](mailto:stpaulsoffice@att.net)

We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



## St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The mission of The Episcopal Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

### First Sunday of Lent

**Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby**

### Readings and Psalm

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

**Psalm 32**

**Romans 5:12-19**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

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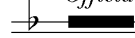
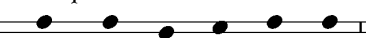
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# The Word of God

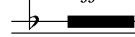
## The Great Litany

*Please stand if you are able*


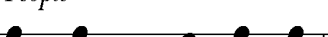
*The Officiant at the Litany may be a lay cantor.*

*Officiant*  *People* 

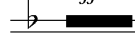
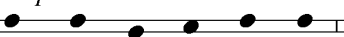
O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*  *People* 

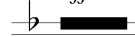
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*  *People* 

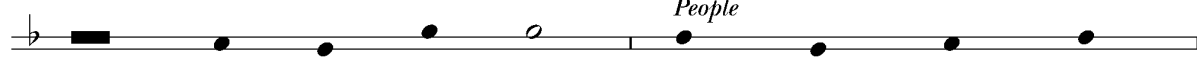
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant*  *People* 

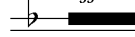
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant* 

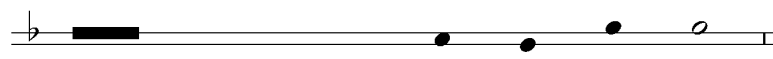
Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

*People* 

preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

*Officiant* 

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the



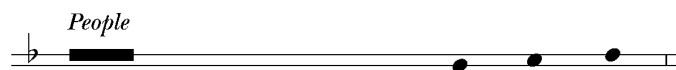
devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,



Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,



We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

*(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)*

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

*Good Lord, deliver us.*

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (or of this nation), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That It may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of [*name(s)* and] all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*



*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

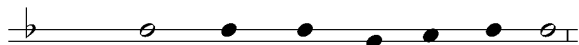


O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.



O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

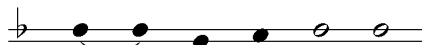
*On all other occasions, the Litany continues as follows:*



*Officiant* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*People* Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Officiant* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Chri - ste e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

*or*

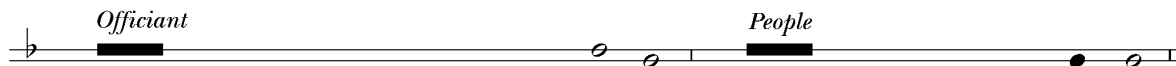
*The Officiant sings the concluding Collect.*

*Officiant and People*



Our Father, who art in heaven . . . from evil. A - men.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.



*Officiant* V. O Lord, let thy mercy be showed up - on us; *People* R. As we do put our trust in thee.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

*People* And with thy spirit

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Please be seated*

## The Lessons

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>9</sup>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

<sup>10</sup>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.”

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights (H 150)

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
 2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
 3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
 4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
 5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[After Jesus was baptized, he] was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
 but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
 and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

### Sermon: The Rev. Joe Ashby

#### THE CREED

*Please stand if able*

We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Please remain standing*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with

the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Joe and Kay, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray especially pray for Linda Fogle, Patricia Willford, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Gene, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Alayna Linquist, Ronnie Long and Debbie Schmiedlen.

We also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Celebrant*

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

Almighty God,  
 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 maker of all things, judge of all men:  
 We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
 and wickedness,  
 which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
 by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
 provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
 We do earnestly repent,  
 and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
 the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
 the burden of them is intolerable.  
 Have mercy upon us,  
 have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
 for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
 forgive us all that is past;  
 and grant that we may ever hereafter  
 serve and please thee in newness of life,  
 to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  
 Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

**THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            And with thy spirit.

*The people greet one another in God's name.*

***Church announcements***

# The Holy Communion

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High..  
*Psalm 50:14*

## Offertory Anthem: *Lord, who throughout these forty days* (Gabriel Faure)

### The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying, ♪♪♪

### *Sanctus*

*Priest and people*  
*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:*  
*Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.*  
*Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*  
*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Please stand or kneel if able*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* therefore let us keep the feast.

## **Prayer of Humble Access**

*We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## Spiritual Communion

*Celebrant:* Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

*Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.*

*\*\*At St. Paul's, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.\*\**

## COMMUNION HYMN: *No longer settled* (VF 57)



1 No long - er set - tled or sure of our ways we  
 2 Claim - ing our pas - sion, em - brac - ing our rage  
 3 Voic - es long si - lenced and mem - 'ries de - nied



leave our - selves o - pen, in mo - ments of grace, to  
 strength - ens our love to re - fash - ion this age, un -  
 call out for heal - ing, for jus - tice and pride. Our

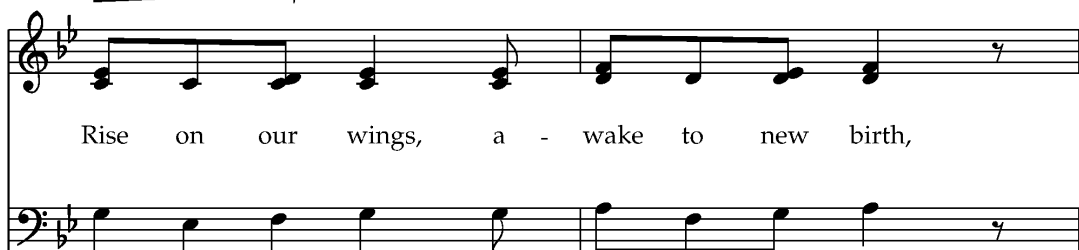




fresh ways of see - ing— scales fall from our eyes and  
 leash - es the pow - er to chal - lenge our lies and  
 hearts hear the an - guish of each sa - cred cry and



in our new vis - ions, the Spi - rit shall rise.  
 in right - eous an - ger, the Spi - rit shall rise.  
 in our com - pas - sion, the Spi - rit shall rise.



Rise on our wings, a - wake to new birth,



breathe in our bod - ies, and free all the earth.

## Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy

everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

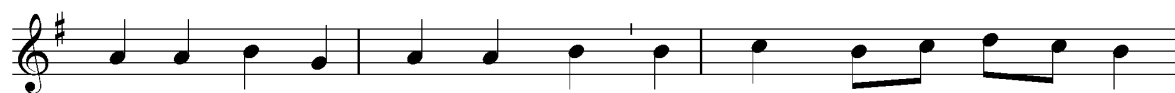
## Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN: *The Glory of these forty days (Erhalt uns, Herr) (H143)*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -  
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full  
 \* 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en  
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.  
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ

*People* Thanks be to God

Postlude: *Hymn Improvisation on Erhalt uns, Herr* (Drew Smegman)

## **TODAY'S SERVICE:**

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Greeter: David Lewis

Thurifer: Karl Roshong

Eucharistic Ministers/Torchbearers: Demetrius Carrothers, Douglas Colmery, David Rotthoff

Video: David Lewis

Altar Guild: Peggy Neidig and Barb Anderson

Lector: M.L. Schultze

Counter: David Rotthoff and M.L. Schultze

## **What Is Lent?**

*From The Episcopal Church*

The period of 40 days, which traditionally does not include Sundays, commemorates the “40 days and 40 nights” (Matthew 4:2) that Jesus fasted in the desert and then resisted temptations from Satan. The word “Lent” comes from an Old English word for “spring,” and is derived from the German word “lang,” meaning “long,” because during this season before Easter, the hours of daylight become longer.

The Book of Common Prayer explains Lent in this way: “The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 264-265).

The Episcopal Church invites us to observe Lent “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditation on God’s holy Word.” (Book of Common Prayer pg. 265)

Today's service harkens back to an earlier time, Rite I in the Book of Common Prayer. The Rite 1 liturgies reflect the language and piety of the Elizabethan era and our first Book of Common Prayer, though the structure of these liturgies also reflects the influence of modern liturgical scholarship.

## Announcements

### Devoting ourselves to the world



If you have not yet picked up your Lenten Devotional Calendar and mite box, please see Barb Anderson. From offering an apology to contributing a penny for each piece of fresh fruit in your home, there's still plenty of time to catch up on the deeds that make a difference during this

Lenten season. And remember, proceeds will go toward the Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts for Life program to purchase goats for underserved parts of our World.

### Special services and other offerings through Lent

- Fr. Joe and Mother Kay will be celebrating special Wednesday noon services throughout Lent, following our morning Bible study. We'll also share a light lunch of homemade soups following the services.
- Also, please join us for a short service of reflection at 5:30 p.m. each Friday with Stations of the Cross.
- Special confirmation classes will be offered following regular services for four Sundays in March.
- The Diocese of Ohio is hosting online [Compline on Sunday evenings](#) at 7:30 p.m. throughout March. It's a quiet, contemplative service of prayer and scripture, offering a peaceful close to the day. "When life feels like too much, praying together is a balm."
- Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will be celebrating a Zoom service at 8 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29, to pray together for God's blessing on our witness. Look for more information coming soon.

Let's dream the impossible together



Man of La Mancha is heartbreaking and uplifting – and coming to live theater in Akron next month. So we see a great opportunity for a St. Paul’s road trip together – in part because one of the cast members is one of our own.

The Ohio Shakespeare Festival is performing the Tony-Award-winning musical at Greystone Hall in Akron on weekends throughout the month and we’re working on getting a block of tickets at a discount (full adult prices are \$35.)

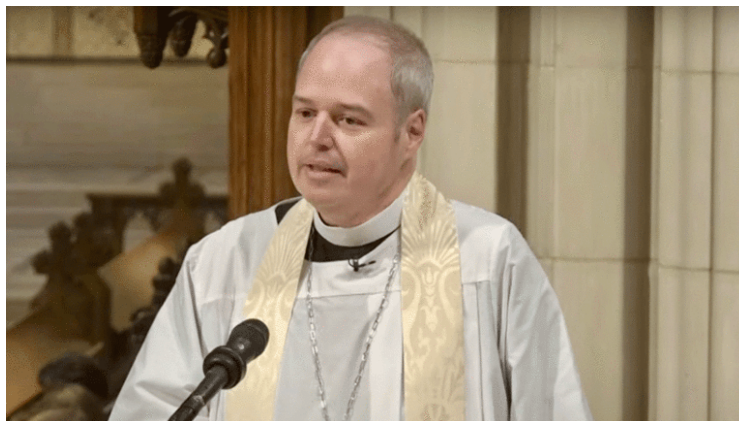
We’ve picked three dates as possibilities: Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m. Please let us know via a signup sheet in the Narthex which date you would prefer and we’ll pick the one that works best for you all.

Many of you may already be humming the beautiful, haunting and funny songs from the show. From “Dulcinea” to “I Really Like Him,” they make the story of Don Quixote come to life in human, funny, sad and triumphant ways as one man decides to right the wrongs of the world. It’s a timeless, yet timely, message for us all.

## Ash Wednesday message from Presiding Bishop Rowe, 2026

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:

When God told Moses to lead the ancient Israelites out of slavery in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh stood in his way. Pharaoh wanted power and control over God's people, and [Exodus](#) tells us that the more serious the



situation got, the more hardened his heart became. Despite locusts and frogs and all manner of chaos in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh remained trapped by his view of the world, which had himself and his power at the center. He could not see that God's imagination was far bigger and more expansive than his. He could not imagine liberation for God's people—or for himself.

Today, in the opening collect of our [Ash Wednesday service](#), we ask God to “create and make in us new and contrite hearts.” I think of Pharaoh's hard heart, and sometimes my own, when I say that prayer, and never more so than this year.

These days, it can seem as if we are living in a wasteland of Pharaoh's imagination. We see the principalities and powers promulgating violence, dehumanization, and injustice on our streets, and it seems nearly impossible not to react along the lines of the divisions and polarization that our political leaders have championed. It is easy to have a hardened heart. It is tempting to get angry and be governed by outrage, or to grow cold and indifferent.

If we turn from Pharaoh's imagination toward God's imagination, however, we find a different path. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. With that great commandment, he is teaching us that we are all one, all part of God's chosen people, and when we hate and revile each other, we are actually destroying ourselves. Theologian Howard Thurman, whose thinking helped shape the Civil Rights movement, put it like this in [“Jesus and the Disinherited”](#): “The logic of the development of hatred is death to the spirit and disintegration of ethical and moral values.”

It is not easy to leave behind Pharoah's imagination and its toxic drip of polarization that hardens our hearts and minds. The liberation we seek requires the conversion—the turning—of our hearts. We can begin that process anytime, but Lent gives us an opportunity to undertake the work together.

In the old 1928 Book of Common Prayer Ash Wednesday service, we called on the book of Lamentations: "Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned." I believe that as we Episcopalians turn, as we fast and pray for the conversion of our hearts, we can make a great witness to a world that has been brought to its knees by the power of hatred and division.

On Monday of Holy Week, a number of my bishop colleagues will hold public liturgies or prayer services to lament the violence and hatred that has come to define our common life and to witness to our conviction that Christians must come together across our unholy divisions. I hope that if you can attend a service nearby, you will.

I will also host a service on Zoom on **Palm Sunday, March 29, at 8 p.m. Eastern** so that we can pray together for God's blessing on our witness. Look for more information coming soon.

Like the apostle Paul, the conversion of the heart that we must undertake may start with a blinding light, but the ongoing change it requires is the work of a lifetime, and may require everything we have. This Lent, I pray that God might create and make in us new and contrite hearts that will sustain us as we make our witness to the world.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean W. Rowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe  
Presiding Bishop



# Social Justice **BOOK** Club

In an instant, Ossie Brown's entire future is in jeopardy when a torn ACL ends his promising basketball career. Now that basketball is no longer a major part of his identity, Ossie—a Black teen who doesn't come from wealth and privilege—must navigate his new place in the social and academic ecosystems of his affluent, predominantly white school. When a Black teacher encourages him to join her highly regarded writing program, Ossie begins to find a new purpose, buoyed by not only the rich works of literature by marginalized authors he's now reading, but also by new friends who see him as something more than an asset to the sports program. Everything changes when some students' viral "anti-woke" video puts the teacher's job, the writing program, and even Ossie's friends' safety at risk—and Ossie must find his true voice. This novel confronts critical issues like racism, classism, homophobia, and book banning.

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**February 24 • 6:30pm**



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