SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH
IN THE CITY AND DIOCESE OF ALBANY

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Laetare Sunday
March 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S! We are very glad you are here to respond in praise and prayer to Jesus' invitation, *Do this in memory of me*. This leaflet will guide you through our celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Please use the red *Book of Common Prayer* and *The Hymnal 1982*, both found in the pews. Immediately following the liturgy, refreshments will be available in the Blue Room. Do join us. Child care is available today in McEwan Hall. An usher and greeter will be happy to assist you with directions. Let us now rejoice and give thanks.

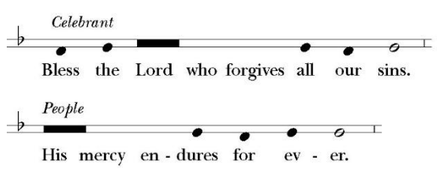
SUNG EUCHARIST

The Liturgy of the Word

Organ Voluntary — Partita *: Jesu meine Freude* (Jesu my joy)
Johann Walther (1684-1748)

Entrance Hymn **144** — "Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness"
Cornhill

A Penitential Order — **BCP page 351**



Kyrie (*Missa Brevis in F*) — Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

The Collect of the Day
Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The First Lesson — A Reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1-3)

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." 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.' 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." 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?" 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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For Psalm *23 Dominus regit me* Hymn **645**
"The King of love my shepherd is"
St. Columba

The Second Lesson — A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-14)

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."
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Anthem — Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley (1825-1889)
O savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel — John (9:1-41)

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.
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."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon — Dean Vang

The Nicene Creed — **BCP page 358**

The Prayers of the People Form III — **BCP page 387**

The Peace — **BCP page 360**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

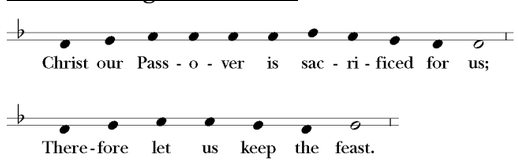
Offertory Hymn **145** — "Now quit your care and anxious fear" *Quittez, Pasteurs*

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) **BCP page 361**

Sanctus **S130** — Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Our Father **S119**

The Breaking of the Bread



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Agnus Dei **S164** — Schubert

The Communion

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this service. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

Communion Anthem — *Jesu dulcis memoria* Richard Shephard (1949-)

Jesu, dulcis memoria	Jesus, how sweet the very thought
Dans vera cordis gaudia:	giving true joy to the heart
Sed super mel et omnia	but sweeter than honey and all else
Ejus dulcis praesentia.	Is his presence.
Nil canitur suavius,	Nothing more melodious is sung
Nil auditur jucundius	Nothing more delightful is heard,
Nil cogitatur dulcius	Nothing sweeter is ever thought,
Quam Jesus Dei Filius.	Than Jesus, the son of God.
Jesu spes paenitentibus,	Jesus, hope of the penitents,
Quam pius es petentibus!	How kind you are to petitioners!
Sed quid invenientibus!	But what more to those who find you!
Nec lingua valet dicere,	No tongue can tell,
Nec littera exprimere:	No written word can express:
Expertus potest credere,	The one who has experienced you can believe
Quid sit Jesum diligere.	What it might be to love Jesus.

Post-Communion Prayer — **BCP page 366**

Prayer over the People

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn **339** — "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness" *Schmücke dich*

Organ Voluntary — Partita: Conclusion *Jesu meine Freude* Walther

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The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Parish Priest*
The Reverend Alicia Todaro, *Deacon*
The Reverend Leslie Hughs, *Rector Emeritus*
Steven L. Rosenberry, *Organist and Director of Music*
Nellson Moore, *Parish Administrator*
Matthew Vitti, *Sexton*
Jescyka Thompson, *Childcare*

ASSISTING THIS WEEK

***Altar Servers*: Rod C., Lisa W., Matt A.**
***Thurifer*: Brock M.**
***Readers*: Brianne C., Candace D., Louis B. B.**
***Chalice Bearers*: Rod C., Deacon Todaro**
***Greeter*: Barbara W.**
***Ushers*: Barbara W., Raelynn H.**
***Altar Guild*: Sandy L., Kate S.**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For those who celebrate a birthday:
Jakob A. 3/15, Damien P. 3/19, Bob C. 3/19, Tristan L. 3/21.
For those who celebrate an anniversary.
For those in need of healing, guidance, and comfort:
Raelynn H., Matt A., Ty C., Jen A., Lynn B., Elizabeth E., Joe T., Hilda H., Cheryl S., Anita F., Laura.
For those who have asked for our prayers.
For our mission partners:
Mother Martha Hubbard and the people of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Albany.
Father Samuel Louis Charles, and the people of Christ the King Episcopal Church and parish school in LaHoye, Haiti.
Father Nicolas Stebbing, and the Tariro orphanages.
For the departed: Richard T. Roberts, Raymond Cook, Margaret Teetz and all of our loved ones.
For the victims of conflict and violence.
For the victims of natural disasters throughout the world and those who suffer from or are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.
For the victims of gun violence.

Please check the website at
stpaulsinalbanyny.org
for the announcements and calendar of events here at Saint Paul's.

CHILDCARE

Childcare, provided by Jescyka Thompson, is available today from 9:15 am to 11:45 am in McEwan Hall.

SAINT PAUL'S VESTRY

Denise Mason, *Senior Warden*
Mark Lowery, *Junior Warden*
Jennifer Andrus * Eric Chan * Gillian Conover
William Harrison * Karen Hibbert * Melvin Hitt
Tristan Lowery * Katherine Storms * Rachael Thomas
Sandra Feck, *Clerk of Vestry*
Sandra Lowery, *Treasurer*

Website: stpaulsinalbanyny.org
Phone: 518-463-2257 * Email: stpaulsepalbany@gmail.com

SAINT PAUL'S PRAYS FOR A NEW RECTOR

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

SAINT PAUL'S RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Robert Walenta, *Chair*
Adam Brunelle, Robert Englert, Thomas Lee,
Terry Tamer, Rachael Thomas, Lisa Walker