



Wednesday—March 15, 2023

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Worship Service LIVE—7:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 301-845-4600 E-mail: info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Web Site: <http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org>



Saint Paul's Official YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXIow1I7 -Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXIow1I7-Q)



Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.

SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck
 Lector.....Mary Ann Ferguson
 Organist.....Jeff Gentry
 Ushers.....Betsy Galliher & Patty Rimel
 Acolyte.....Camden Plog

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Trish Valcarcel
 Vice-President—Patty Rimel
 Treasurer—Amy Mildenstein
 Secretary—Jackie Waas

Amazing Grace

The Blind Man

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see. John 9:24

Gathering Hymn..... O Christ Our Hope..... ELW 604

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|---|--|
| 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world,
by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured: | 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,
the ransom has been paid;
you reign above at God's right hand,
in robes of light arrayed,
in robes of light arrayed. |
| 2 How vast your mercy to accept
the burden of our sin,
and bow your head in cruel death
to make us clean within,
to make us clean within. | 4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail
to purge us of our pride,
that we may stand before your throne
by mercy purified,
by mercy purified. |

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.

Call to Worship

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,
- C: **Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,**
- P: Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed,
- C: **Who gives food to the hungry.**
- P: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
- C: **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**
- P: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
- C: **The Lord watches over the sojourners;**
- P: He upholds the widow and the fatherless,
- C: **But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**
- P: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
- C: **Praise the Lord!**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Jesus showed grace to the blind man and restored his sight. Trusting in God's compassion and saving love, we confess our sins and ask his forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

C: **Almighty God, although we claim to see and know so much, all too often we are lost in the blindness of our sins. We follow tempting pathways instead of walking in your commandments. We act according to our own desires instead of obeying the guidance of your holy Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Open our eyes so that, by faith, we will see the wonders of your love and grace.**

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. The Lord and Messiah, who opened the eyes of the blind, came to lay down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind!**

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, we pray that by your Spirit you would grant us the clear sight of faith to see the wonders of your love and power in our lives. Through Jesus' redeeming death, we have forgiveness and eternal life. As the blind man told others about the miracle that had been accomplished in his life, help us to witness boldly to your amazing grace and tell others of the hope and peace that can be theirs through faith in Jesus. As the man who was healed worshiped Jesus, we too worship Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in his holy name. Amen.

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 35:4-10

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

Gospel Reading ... John 9:1-7, 24-38

The Sermon Hymn..... *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*v. 1,3 ELW 611

1 What God ordains is good indeed,
for all life well providing.
The will of God is best for me,
the ground of my confiding.
My faithful God,
on ev'ry road
you know the way unfolding
and my hand you are holding.

3 What God ordains is good indeed.
When hope seems like delusion,
I taste the bitter cup and plead,
"Lord, quench my fear, confusion."
God ends the night,
restores delight;
by faith I face tomorrow
and yield to God all sorrow.

Sermon.....*The Blind Man*.....Pastor Phil Beck

Hymn of Response..... *Amazing Grace*v. 5 ELW 779

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's Only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

P: Almighty God, during his earthly ministry, your Son, our Lord Jesus, healed the sick and restored sight to the blind. He fulfilled all that the Scriptures had foretold of the Messiah. His healing miracles proved him to be the Son of God and the promised Messiah. We give you thanks and praise for your saving work through Jesus our Savior. Gracious Lord,

C: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit, give us eyes of faith to see the miracles that you have done and continue to do in our lives, especially the miracle of our salvation in Jesus. Help us to see clearly your truth and to grow in grace as we see Jesus revealed in your holy Word. Gracious Lord,

C: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering through illness, fear and grief. According to your will, bring them comfort and healing. Lead us to serve them as we offer help to them in their need. Help them to see clearly the hope and encouragement found in the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

C: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, the man whose sight was restored worshiped Jesus as Messiah and Lord. Give us the clear sight of faith so that we too will faithfully worship Jesus as our Savior and King. Gracious Lord,

C: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into One with the Holy Spirit, we now pray as Jesus taught us...

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.

Benediction

P: So we are always of good courage.

C: We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn.....Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church..... ELW 321

1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence
bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2 So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots
break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003
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Announcement regarding livestreaming of the worship services:

St. Paul's intends to continue offering online worship services to share the Gospel through Facebook and Youtube. With the inclusion of in-person attendance during the service, we need to inform you that your presence may be captured in the recording and broadcast through St. Paul's social media platforms. Your comfort and privacy are of utmost importance, if you prefer not to have your image broadcast please contact the office by phone or email or inform the usher as you arrive. The office will keep a list of those wishing NOT to appear in the recording and convey that information to the Media and Technology Ministry.

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