

April 3, 2011 | Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Readings from Scripture

The First Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

A reading from Ephesians

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus 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 Our Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for Christians around the world, made one in baptism; for ecumenical partnerships; and for our sisters and brothers in other faith communities. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the receding polar ice caps, and the disappearing glaciers; for polluted waterways and garbage-filled oceans; for the shrinking rain forests and the many creatures that call them home. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for kings and queens; for presidents and prime ministers; for legislatures and court systems; and for local governments, that all these may serve their peoples with justice. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for day-care providers and librarians; for business owners and artists; for social workers and custodians; for farmers and scientists; for the sick and for all who cannot find work (*especially*). Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the members of this assembly, and for any visitors among us, that we all might see and proclaim you as the light of the world. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks for the many witnesses, living and dead, who have served you in astonishing ways; and let us pray for all those who grieve for the dead. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Easter Flower Tulip Order

We will be taking orders for tulips to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you wish to sponsor a plant they are \$7.50 per pot. The last day to place your order will be April 3rd as we need to turn these orders into the Greenhouse by Monday, April 11th.

Please complete this form and turn it into the church office along with your check. Checks should be made out to **St. Paul's**.

Plants may be picked up after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.



_____ Tulips # of plants (\$7.50 each pot)
Colors will vary.

Given by _____

to beautify God's house ***or***

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

_____ I will be picking up my plant (s) following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday.

_____ I am donating the plant (s) to the church

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Mid Week Soup Supper & Lenten Services:

April 6	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM
April 13	Soup @ 6:45 PM	Service @ 7:30 PM

Palm Sunday

April 17 - Holy Communion 8 AM | 9:15 AM | 10:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 21 - Holy Communion Service | 7:30 PM

Good Friday Service

April 22 - 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday

April 24 - 6:30 AM Sunrise | 8 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Holy Communion | 9:15 AM Sunday School Only
note: no 9:15 service on Easter

St. Paul's Prayer List & Weekly update to the April Vision

Norm Benner
Jon Bolton
Dorothy Mohr

Sharon Moyer - *Wife of Scott Moyer*
Jamie Nase – *Grandson of Nancy Nase*
Rodman Leister

For the complete prayer list ~ please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

We remember in our prayers the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines & their families on the recent loss of 12 members of their unit in Afghanistan.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Floyd Smoll presented by wife Arlene and son Dan.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mildred Richard presented by sons Clyde and Alan and families.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthday of Clark and Claude Walter presented by Aunt Agnes and Uncle Charles.

The Sanctuary Lamp is given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Andrew Bonekemper and Carrie Gould on April 2nd presented by parents, George and Anne Bonekemper and sister Wendy and her family.

Capital Improvement Fund ~ We have currently received a total of \$63,304 in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

Elevator Fund ~	Gifts Previously Committed	\$50,000.00
	Gifts Received as of 3.6.11	\$11,430.00
	Total	\$61,430.00

Elevator Project Update ~ next phase installation of elevator components..

Victory House ~ Join us April 10th at 4:00 as we volunteer at the Victory House. For more information please contact Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895.

ASP Planning meeting - Sunday April 10, 20 11 with group leaders (18 or older) meeting at 3 PM and all ASP participants meeting at 4:00 P M in the library.

Lunch Bunch ~ Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Pack your lunch and bring your mug. Dessert is provided. Ms. Terry Kane will perform Celtic Songs and playing mandolin and guitar. Come and enjoy the beautiful Irish music. If you are a Redner's shopper, use your save-a-tape card and bring the entire register tape to Lunch Bunch or church and drop it into the receipt receptacle. Thank you!

Table Talk ~ Will meet on April 17, 2011 at the home of the Fox family at 4:30 PM.

Mid Week | Soup Supper & Lenten Service ~ each Wednesday evening during Lent with the exception of Holy Week. Soup supper at 6:45 PM. Worship at 7:30 PM.

Easter Egg Hunt ~ We are collecting plastic eggs filled with candy. Filled plastic eggs may be given to the Vicar. The egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 AM in the lower parking lot. Please park at the Frye Road parking lot.

An Evening with Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, author of “When Bad Things Happen to Good People” Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm at Central Moravian Church West Church & Main Streets, Bethlehem. General Admission tickets are available - \$10/ticket. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact St. Luke’s InfoLink at 1-866-STLUKES (785-8537) or visit www.slnh.org/bereavement.

Upcoming Women’s Event - Ladies reserve Saturday, May 14th. You are invited to a spring program in the Fellowship Hall from 9-12:15. Look for a poster and sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the elevator hallway. We will be going to the Gilbertsville Tea Room at 1:00 PM with the first 30 ladies who sign up. Program is free. Tea room cost is \$24.00/person. Contact Bonnie Bonser with any questions. 215-679-5553 ext. 125.



Conduct
yourselves ...
so that ...
they may
see your
honorable
deeds and
glorify God.

1 Peter 2:12

~ ***This Week at St. Paul's*** ~

Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Confirmation	WILL NOT MEET
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM
Monday	Cub Scouts	6:30 PM
	Property Committee	7:00 PM
	Praise Team Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Wednesday	Soup Supper	6:45 PM
	Mid Week Lenten Service	7:00 PM
	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
Thursday	Afternoon Bible Study – <i>at the home of Bonnie Bonser</i>	1:00 PM
	Evening Bible Study – <i>at the home of Bonnie Bonser</i>	7:00 PM
Friday	Girl Scouts	6:30 PM
Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Victory House	4:00 PM
	ASP Trip Meeting (<i>3 PM Group Leaders</i>)	4:00 PM
	Generations Choir	6:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM	

~ ***Today's Worship Assistants*** ~

Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Nicole Walter	
	10:30 AM	Stephanie Smith	
Assistant	8:00 AM	Stan Rose	10:30 AM Joanne Hersh
Ushers	9:15 AM	Bob & Mary Lou Weber	
	10:30 AM	Floyd Treffinger & John Hinkle	
Monday		Sandy Bergey, Claude & Jean Croisette	