



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 19, 2017**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one
God, who forgives all our sin, whose
mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (A brief silence.)
Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN “*Christ, the Life of All the Living*”

**Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.**

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

C: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

P: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters.

As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (A brief silence.)

C: **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. Amen.**

Children's Church



Psalm 23 ~ A Responsive Reading

R: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not
be in want.

C: **The LORD makes me lie down in
green pastures and leads me beside
still waters.**

R: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right path ways for your name's sake.

C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians, the 5th chapter.

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.”

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P: The holy gospel according to John,
the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

~ Reader's Theater ~

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“Spiritual Blindness”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**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.**

THE 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 OF INTERCESSION

P: Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need. (A brief silence.)

God of the ages, as your church prepares your table for all to celebrate in one holy meal, restore the unity of those who gather in your name. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You shed light on your creation. Let the changing of the seasons bring forth growth and new life from what was dormant and fallow.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Shine your light on the people of every nation. Reveal your reconciling love in places where fear and conflict thrive (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of wholeness, bring clarity to those in confusing times, bring healing to those in painful times, bring peace to those in trying times. (*We pray especially for . . .*)
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Restore, renew, and enliven the ministry and work of this congregation. Help us to see your purpose clearly.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We remember and give thanks for those who have joined you in eternal light. Let their lives of faith shine in our hearts and guide our paths.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we
commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your steadfast love;
through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~

“All That Matters”

by Colton Dixon

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: We give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and
praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with
grace and mercy. The Lord look
upon you with favor and †
give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May it show us where to travel,

lead us back if we should stray.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.**

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



































