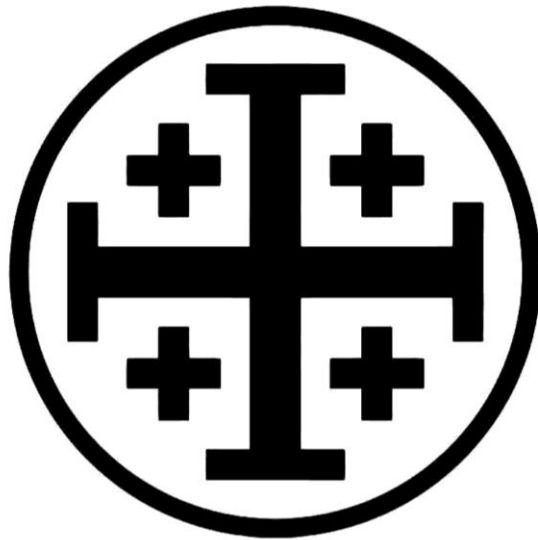


Fourth Weekend of Lent
Saturday, March 21, 2020 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 22, 2020, 9:00 am

To Help Us See More Clearly



We are not blind, are we?

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are “a worshiping and caring Christian community,
sharing God's compassion and grace
with all people in need of love and acceptance
within this congregation, the community, and the world!”

PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

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

Gathering

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us return to our gracious and merciful God, confessing our need for healing.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Let us pray together in the words of Martin Luther.

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

Through God's mercy we have been joined to the saving death of Jesus Christ. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

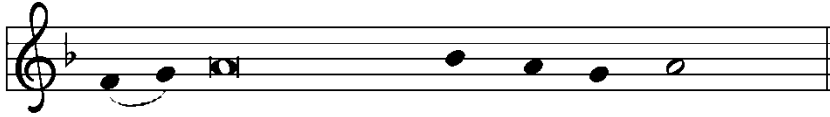
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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GREETING

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

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



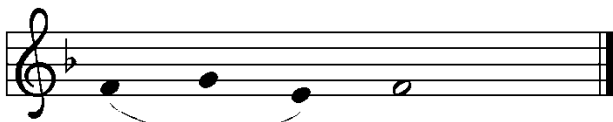
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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 SERMON

Word

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul. A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹The 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."

²Samuel 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.'

³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But 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.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.” ¹²He 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.” ¹³Then 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23

(organ side reads non-bold verses and pulpit side reads bold)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**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

(Sunday only)

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which 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.

⁸Once 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.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo-ry and praise to you, O Lord, Je-sus Christ, Lord Je-sus Christ.

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.

1: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the ninth chapter of St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord. As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him,

All: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

1: ³Jesus answered,

2: “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.”

1: 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,

2: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”

1: (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,

All: “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”

1: Some were saying,

All: “It is he.”

1: Others were saying,
All: **“No, but it is someone like him.”**
1: He kept saying,
3: “I am the man.”
1: ¹⁰But they kept asking him,
All **“Then how were your eyes opened?”**
1: ¹¹He answered,
3: “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.”
1: ¹²They said to him,
All: **“Where is he?”**
1: He said,
3: “I do not know.”
1: They 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,
3: “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”
1: ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said,
All: **“This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.”**
1: But others said,
All: **“How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”**
1: And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man,
All: **“What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”**
1: He said,
3: “He is a prophet.”
1: 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 ¹⁹and asked them,
All: **“Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”**
1: ²⁰His parents answered,
2, 3: “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.”
1: 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,
2, 3: “He is of age; ask him.”

1: So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

All: “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”

1: ²⁵He answered,

3: “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

1: ²⁶They said to him,

All: “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

1: ²⁷He answered them,

3: “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?”

1: ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying,

All: “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.”

1: ³⁰The man answered,

3: “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.”

1: ³⁴They answered him,

All: “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”

1: And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

2: “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

1: ³⁶He answered,

3: “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

1: ³⁷Jesus said to him,

2: “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

1: ³⁸He said,

3: “Lord, I believe.”

1: And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said,

2: “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,

All: “Surely we are not blind, are we?”

1: ⁴¹Jesus said to them,

2 “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

1: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

There’s more going on in what you just heard than the story of a miraculous healing. John also seems to be hoping that by the time we reach the end, we’ll have been able to reach a kind of uncomfortable conclusion: that being born blind is part of the human condition.

Now wait just a dang minute! That can’t be right? Can it? We are not blind, are we? Like the blind man in this story, we have all been making a significant journey of faith. We went to Sunday School when we were young. We’ve been through Confirmation. We’ve read our Bibles, and sung in the choir, served on Council or on a committee or two. And we’re in the church this morning! And right along with the blind man, we are able to say, “Lord, I believe.” And all of that surely must count for something. At the very least, it ought to say, “I’m not blind...I can see!”

But John really wants us to be able to identify not only with the journey of the blind man, but also with the attitude of the Pharisees. Because we’ve been there, too.

There was once a seminary professor who was teaching a class about Jesus. And it happened, on one particular day, that the class started to consider the miracles of Jesus. And the professor asked the class, “Why do you think there are so many miracle stories in the gospels?”

The students were quick to respond. “Well, these miracles prove that Jesus really is the Son of God. Miracles make belief in Jesus easier.”

Now I want you to take that argument and apply it to the story of the healing of the man born blind. Did this particular miracle make believing in Jesus easier? I’m not so sure. Because look at what happens here. Jesus heals a blind man. And according to John’s recounting, the response of the ones who witness this healing, or who at least are aware that it happened is not, “He’s the Son of God! Let’s worship him!” But rather something along the lines of “It’s not right for an uneducated, un-credentialed faith healer like you to do miraculous stuff like that for losers like him.”

But why?

There’s a lot going on in this story, but you might notice that there are two main movements happening. First of all there is the movement of the blind man, who, in Jesus’ time, had a disability that would have made him just about as

marginalized, restricted and ignored as he could be. But Jesus saw him. He really saw him. And he saw the potential for what he could become. And so, because of Jesus, this blind man is changed utterly; he is emboldened, washed clean, flooded with light. And as this happens, he learns to see Jesus. First, he sees him as a prophet. Then, a little later, he sees him as someone who comes from God. And then, at the end, he sees him as God's anointed, as the Light of the world. There is so much grace in this story—and it changes his life.

On the other hand, there's the movement of the Pharisees—which, in fact, is no movement at all. By the end of the story, they are still in the same place they were at the beginning. And maybe that's not so hard to understand. After all, they were part of a people who had been suffering abuse for centuries under oppressors like the Babylonians, the heirs of Alexander the Great, and even the current Roman occupiers. And one of the big ways that they had chosen to deal with this was by digging in, by closing the shutters, by closing their ranks. It meant that they had become restricted in the way that they responded to the world and in the way they dealt with reality. It meant a lot of clinging to what was safe and sure.

But lately this Jesus had been coming around, and he was upending everything. He was telling them that the way they were doing things was becoming stifling, that it was keeping them from seeing how God's grace was breaking into the world. He wanted to offer them a different view of God and life. But they didn't want to see.

And sometimes, those words perfectly describe us, as well. Because sometimes, honestly, we come to church and all that we really want out of our faith is some kind of rubber stamp. We want our faith to confirm, to validate our presumptions, our presuppositions about ourselves, about other people, about life, about Jesus. We're sure that we're right, and we expect the gospel to back us up. But sometimes, if we're paying attention, the gospel does exactly the opposite, and we find ourselves dislodged, dislocated.

And sometimes, we still fall into the habit of thinking that our relationship with God depends on something that we do, or something that we think or how we act. It's not really up to God—it's up to us. But even this is a type of blindness, keeping us from seeing what's really going on.

The problem with the Pharisees in this gospel reading wasn't that they were blind—which they were. It was the stubbornness, the self-righteous attitudes that enabled them to hang onto that blindness, to keep on refusing to see. And because of that, they were also insulating themselves from the very grace of God.

I dearly hope that doesn't completely describe us. Because the grace of God is all around us, if only we can open our eyes to see it. If we truly are keeping ourselves from the light and beauty of Christ, perhaps a good first step that we

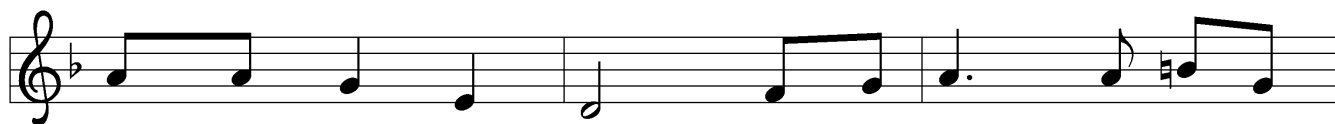
could take is simply admitting that we are blind in the first place. That we don't have all the answers. That we're not always so sure. And that we need Christ—to touch our eyes, to touch our hearts, to touch our very souls. We need him to open us up and let the light in, let his grace in.

Or, to put it in an even more Lenten way: we need him to roll away the stone behind which we have lain dormant for far too long. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*” with Lent 4



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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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

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day, especially those who have made requests through our prayer cross. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, we remember before you today all who seek healing. We ask for your blessings on them and on all who provide care, particularly those we name aloud and those who remain in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

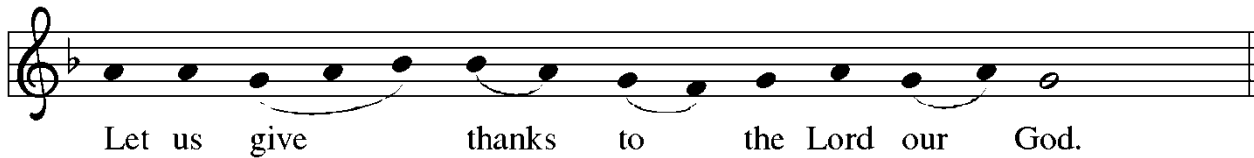
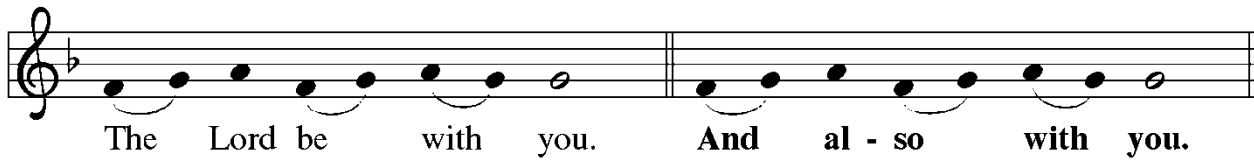
Meal

OFFERING

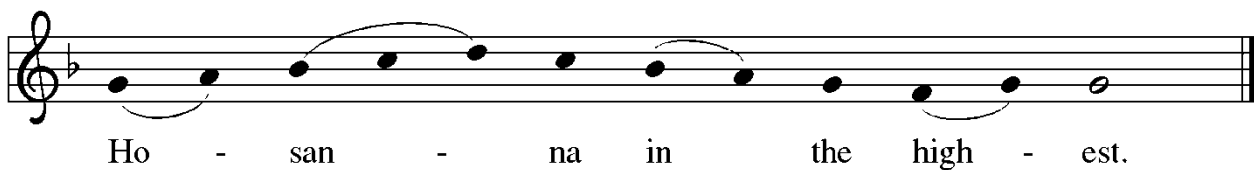
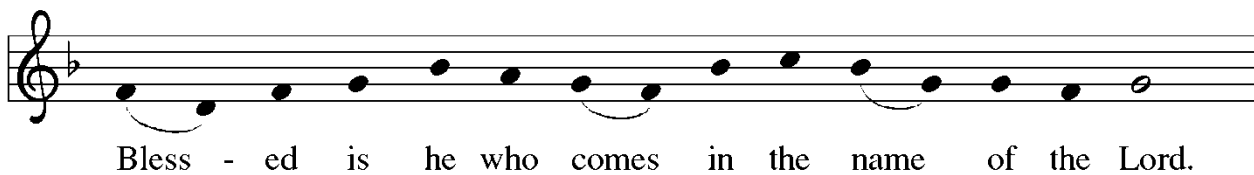
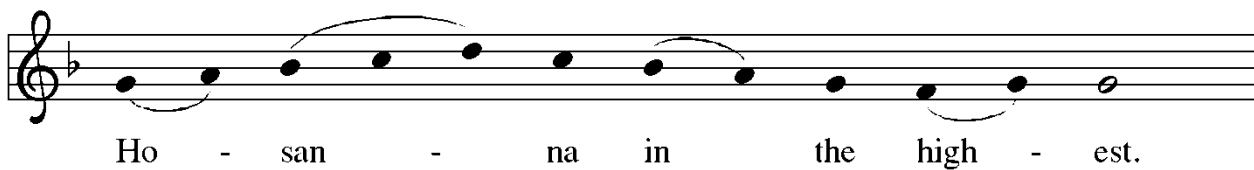
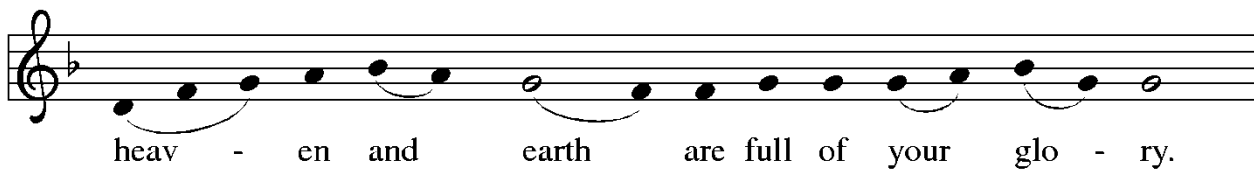
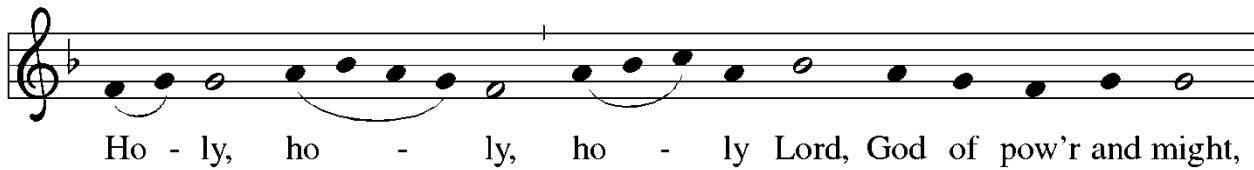
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, **you provide us with every gift of creation, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these expressions of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

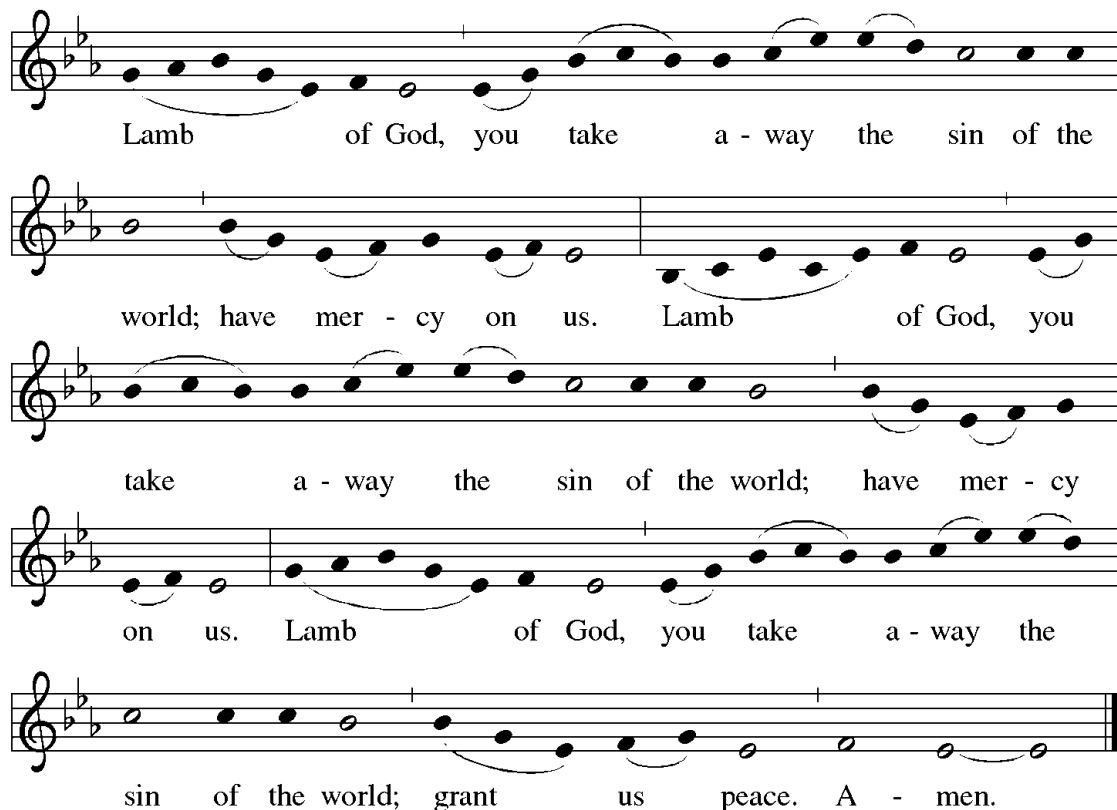
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(All are welcome to the table, including visitors and children. If children are communing, they should hold their hands out, if not, they should hold their hands in and they will receive a blessing. Both common cup and individual cups are available. There is grape juice in the center of each tray for those who prefer. All are welcome to either kneel or stand during communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers.)

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

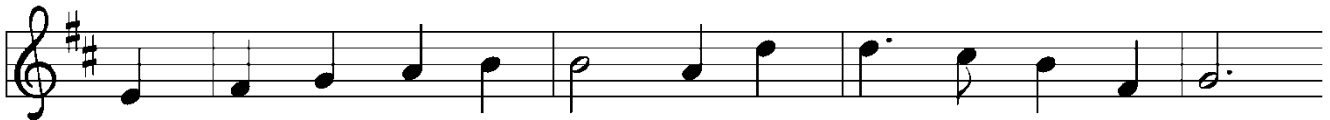
“O Living Bread from Heaven”



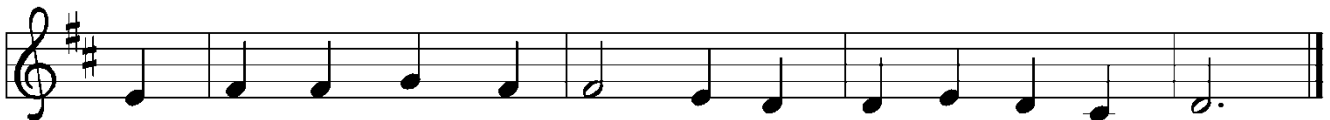
1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

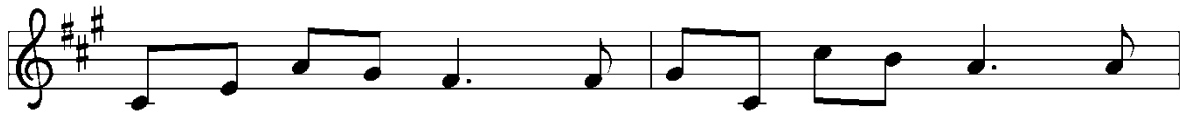
"You Are Mine"



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. To stanza 2
 Come and rest in me. To refrain
 all will know my name. To refrain
 up, now walk and live! To refrain



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

To stanzas 3 and 4

4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

May God restore in you the joy of salvation, strengthen your love for your neighbor, and grant you to live in harmony with all creation; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, ☩ the Son, and the Holy Spirit; be among you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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DISMISSAL

Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Due to the concern of the Corona virus (COVID-19), the Central States Synod, our Church Council and Pastor Jim have decided that it would be best to cancel all worship activities at the church through the end of the month of March. All individual committee meetings and other groups will meet at the discretion of the group's leader. Please check with them regarding if you are meeting.

This week at Our Saviors

Sun., 3/22	Fourth Weekend in Lent Worship and Sunday School cancelled		
Mon., 3/23	7 pm	Alanon	A
Tues., 3/24	7 pm	Men's Reading Group	FH
Wed., 3/25	1 pm	Quilters	Bruntzel's
	7 pm	Grace Notes Rehearsal	WC
Sat., 3/28	Fifth Weekend in Lent		
	8:30 am	BSP charity event	A
	11 am	Wedding of Kenny Jones	WC
	Worship cancelled		
Sun., 3/29	Fifth Weekend in Lent Worship and Sunday School cancelled		

WC-Worship Center; FH-Fellowship Hall; N-Nursery; L-Library; Ga-Gathering
C-Conference Room; A, B, E, G, H, and I — Education Wing

What's Happening at OSLC

- **Barb Keil, RN is the Parish Nurse for OSLC.** She can be reached at 408-4114, at bkeil4514@gmail.com, or you may leave a message with the church office or her mail box in the Fellowship Hall. Blood pressure checks are every fourth weekend of the month or on as needed basis.
- **The handbells will not be rehearsing** until further notice. Please contact Dave Huss to determine when the rehearsals will resume.
- **Prayer Cross—During Lent, you will have the opportunity to make use of our Lenten Prayer Cross!** Look for it in the worship center. This special cross will provide you the opportunity to make prayer requests. To make a prayer request, simply take a paper cross from the basket at the foot of the cross, write your prayer request on the back, then stick your cross on one of the nails in the prayer cross. Each week at church we will be praying for all the prayer requests on the cross and they will be remembered by Pastor Jim in his personal prayer as well.
- We are in need of people to sign up to be **coffee hosts in April** and throughout the remainder of 2020. Please sign up today in the kitchen, or call the church office to volunteer. Your help is appreciated.
- During this time, many nursing homes are limiting visitations and contact with those outside the facility. A special message, a drawing from a child, or a card telling the person that you are thinking about them is much appreciated. As part of our ongoing work with **Oak Creek Senior Living**, we will be **sending notes, cards, drawings, etc. to the residents.** A basket for the collection, along with blank note cards will be available at church for your use, or you may send your items directly to Oak Creek at: Oak Creek Senior Living Center, 3224 SW 29 Street, Topeka, Kansas 66614.
- **From the Parish Nurse COVID-19 (Corona Virus) - Simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.** These include • Avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay home if you are sick. • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. OSLC has conveniently located hand sanitizer. I also have fact sheets about the virus from CDC available upon request.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO COVID-19 (Corona virus)

- **Here at church, Grace Notes rehearsal, Handbell rehearsal, Worship on Wednesday evening, Saturday and Sunday worships, and all Sunday School classes have been cancelled, at least through the end of March.**
- In response to COVID-19, **Doorstep's building will not be open for client services or donations until Monday, March 31.** We feel a commitment to keeping our volunteers safe, and still serve the most vulnerable in our community. Therefore, we will still be assisting with food by phone intake only between the hours of 9 am - 1 pm at 357-5341. Food will need to be picked up by 2 pm each day.
- Unfortunately, due to the Corona virus situation, *Sounding Light* has had to **cancel their concert tour**, including their **March 20 concert at Grace Cathedral**. We hope to reschedule this event for the future. If you purchased tickets from the Cathedral office, please contact Steve Burk for a refund or you may use these tickets for another upcoming concert. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may pose, but we are sure you understand the situation, Steve Burk, Grace Episcopal Church, 235-3457.
- Because of the Corona virus concerns, word was received that the **Luther College Symphony concert tour has been cancelled**. They were scheduled to perform at First Lutheran Church, 1234 SW Fairlawn on March 21. First Lutheran and Lutheran Fine Arts council of Topeka, sponsors for this event, regret the cancellation but the concern of all involved is that everyone to be safe and healthy.

In Our Prayers

Those who need healing...Virginia Mendez; Sheila Gutierrez; Carol Brown; Avis Cowhick; Sue Henke; Kay Dobbs; R.B. Cowhick; Dick Rohlf; Sharon Rumpel; Ron Willis

Those who are homebound...Dean Olson; Melissa Smith

Those in our families and community...**Dwight**—friend of Carol Hunt; **Keith**—brother of Lila McClafin; **Janet**—cousin of Sue Henke; **Ralph**—brother of Betsy Hawkins; **Craig**—friend of Eric Pedersen; **Paula**—niece of Betsy Hawkins; **Marcia**—cousin of Betsy Hawkins; **Joe**—uncle of Pat Koenig; **Ray**—friend of Betsy Hawkins; **Hayley**—daughter of co-worker of Eric Pedersen; **Sharon**—mother of Matt Ledell; **Cheryl**—sister of JoLana Pinon; **Nicole**—niece of Jodi Ledell; **Gary**—husband of Betsy Hawkins; **Steve**—friend of Eric Pedersen;

Mavis—friend of Sue Henke; **Jolene**— |sister-in-law of Jim Oestreich and Janet Bolton; **PJ**—grandson of Virginia Mendez; **Fred**—uncle of Clay & Katie Davis; **Linda**—cousin of Myron Dunavan; **Claudia**—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; **Clark**—brother of Betsy Hawkins; **Spencer**—nephew of Carol Hunt; **Ashley**—friend of Katie Davis; **Cari**—daughter of Dawn Bradley; **Wyatt**—cousin of Dawn Bradley; **Paul**—friend of Donnita and Sarah Thomas; **Juanita**—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; **Don**—friend of Trisch Stender and Pat Koenig; **Ray**—brother of Dwight Rumpel; **Marilyn**—aunt of Jodi Ledell; **Daxton**—grandbaby of friend of Sue Rohleder; **Ann**—aunt of Pat Koenig; **Dora**—friend of Pat Koenig and Trish Stender; **Mary**—friend of Myron Dunavan; **Larry**—friend of Eric Pedersen; **Skip**—uncle of Clay Davis; **Dave**—friend of Marj Odell; **Jim**—friend and co-worker of Eric Pedersen; **Joanne**—friend and sorority sister of Pat Dunavan and Avis Cowhick; **Richard**—brother of Pam Haar; **Craig**—brother of Betsy Hawkins; **Shannon**—cousin of Carol Hunt; **Bob**—brother-in-law of Sue Henke; **Liam**—son of a co-worker of Eric Pedersen

Those serving overseas...**Ben**—friend of JoLana Pinon; **Imanee**—granddaughter of Dawn Bradley

We mourn for...**Jo**—friend of Eric Pedersen

Attendance		Weekly General Fund Snapshot	
3/14	11	YTD Receipts	\$44,793.01
3/15	<u>44</u>	YTD Budget	<u>46,083.025</u>
Total	55	Difference	(\$1,290.01)

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MARCH 22, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



God does not judge as we judge.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind
Monday	1 Samuel 16:1-13	David is anointed king
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:8-14	Living as people of light
Wednesday	James 4:11-12	Warning against judging others
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-11	God's ways are not our ways
Friday	Matthew 7:1-5	Judging others
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 11:1-45	The raising of Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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." **1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to see as you see, not be judgmental, and to show mercy as you show us mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, thank you for providing us with this food, a sign of your overflowing love. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may God look on you with favor and give you peace.



MARCH 22, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Lord of All Hopefulness



taking†
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time someone did something that really changed your understanding of that person.
- Why is it that we sometimes judge ourselves or others too harshly?
- God's judgment is about love and mercy. How does knowing this help you think about yourself and others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 9:1-41 out loud.

One person is narrator and other people speak the different voices in the story of the man born blind. In John 9 Jesus sees in the blind man a person who needs sight, not someone whose sin is greater than anyone else's (vv. 1-7). In 1 Samuel the prophet is to anoint a new king, but Samuel is not able to perceive or see what God sees. A scrawny, youngest son (David) who is originally not even considered, is chosen by God to be king. Thank God that our Lord sees and judges by a standard far from our own. May the light that God brings into the world help us to see ourselves and others with humility, hope, and compassion. Think of something that bothers you about your own life situation or that of someone you know. How might God see it differently and with more understanding and compassion?

Pray: **Almighty and merciful God, thank you for your ways that conquer human blindness with hope and new life. Amen.**

SERVICE



One characteristic of a Christian is to be available when needed. Being available to serve others nurtures the Christian faith and life through the power of the Holy Spirit. This takes us to areas of ministry far outside the walls of a local congregation to living our faith in daily life. In what ways do you reflect this characteristic in your daily life? Is there an organization or someone near you who would benefit from you being available to volunteer?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the fourth week in Lent, light four of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "S", for Supplication, meaning to humbly ask God to provide something for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

Pray: **Dear God, just as you healed the blind man, I ask for your healing in the lives of those who are in need of your loving presence including . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org