



LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Calvin and Anne Harmon.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Vicki Rubenstein
Gospel Lector	John Beckford
Cantor	Donna Potts
Prayers	Andrew Weiner
Acolyte	Ben McCormack
Greeters	Mark Allen Lani Ludian Tara Miller Chris Nix Dean Nix Vicki Rubenstein
Ushers	Richard Delap Carol Elliott Wayne Landreth David Potts
Refreshment Hosts	Debbie and Richard Farstad
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

+ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs your kingdom come. *Refrain*

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.



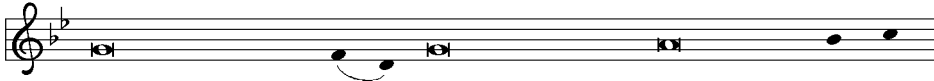
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



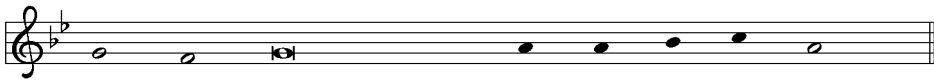
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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. Healing God, you opened the eyes of the one born blind. You opened the eyes of a community who refused to restore this healed one to relationship. Open our eyes. Heal our blindness. Give us eyes to see and hearts to believe that every human being — regardless of ability, status, race, gender, sexual orientation, or creed — is one of your beloved, precious children. Expand our vision so that we can bring your Kin-dom to this family of faith and to this world that you so love through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from first Samuel.

¹God 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 children.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And God said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to God.’” 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 God 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 God; 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 God’s anointed is now before the God.” ⁷But God said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has God chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has God chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “God has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your children here?” And Jesse said, “There remains yet the youngest, who is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²Jesse sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. God 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 siblings; and the spirit of God came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

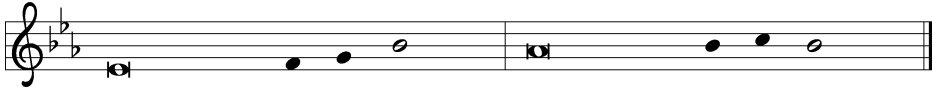
The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm
 Refrain



Psalm
 Tone



¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
 I shall not ¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
 and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
 and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. R**

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were without light, 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 God. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works that hide from the light, 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 God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

God Can Use You!

Please stand as able or remain seated if that is more appropriate

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a person who had been blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this person or the parents, that this one was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither the parents nor this person sinned; this one was born blind to be the one through whom God’s works might be revealed. ⁴We must work the works of the one 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.” ⁶After saying this, Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the blind one’s eyes, ⁷saying, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). The blind one went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen this one as a blind beggar began to ask, “Is this not the one who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “Yes, it is.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone similar.” The once blind beggar kept saying, “I am the one.” ¹⁰But they kept asking, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹And the answer was, “The one 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 asked, "Where is Jesus?" The answer was, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the one who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened those blind eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask the one Jesus healed, "How did you receive your sight?" The answer was, "Jesus put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This Jesus is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can one who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind one, "What do you say about Jesus? It was your eyes he opened." The once blind one said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Temple authorities did not believe that this person had been blind and had received sight until they called the parents of the one who had received sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your child, who you say was born blind? How then does this person now see?" ²⁰The parents answered, "We know that this is our child, who has been blind from birth; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now our child sees, nor do we know who opened our child's eyes. Do not ask us. Our child is old enough to give testimony without us." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Temple authorities for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore the parents said, "Do not ask us. Our child is old enough to give testimony without us." ²⁴So for the second time they called the one who had been blind, and they said, "Give glory to God! We know that this Jesus is a sinner." ²⁵The one whose sight had been restored answered, "I do not know whether Jesus is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said, "What did Jesus do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷The answer? "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become a disciple of Jesus?" ²⁸They scornfully replied, "You are a disciple of this Jesus, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for Jesus, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The now-seeing one answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where Jesus comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God listens not to sinners, but to those who worship and obey God. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If Jesus were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴The Temple authorities answered, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove the person out. ³⁵Jesus heard that the one to whom he had given sight had been driven out, and when he found that person, said, "Do you believe in the Messiah?" ³⁶The newly seeing one answered, "And who is the Messiah? Tell me, so that I may believe." ³⁷Jesus said, "You have seen the Messiah, the one speaking with you now." ³⁸The person said, "Lord, I believe," and worshiped Jesus. 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, "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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

#815

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Unify us as the Body of Christ, in both our woundedness and holiness. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grand Blue Ridge Mountain range to the smallest tomato seed gardeners are already eager to plant. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of the marginalized. Walk alongside librarians, library board members, educators, and school administrators. Give them the strength to stand against exclusionary ideals and the courage to fill our public libraries and schools with books representative of all your beloved people. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Surround those facing undiagnosed and worrisome illness with your love and healing power. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

Inclusive God, you are preparing a Kingdom for all people. Bring an end to exclusionary theologies and politics which only work against your holy purpose. Continue opening our eyes to see you more fully in our neighbors, our queer siblings, those who dress differently than we do, the poor and the rich, the homeless, and the homebound. Invite us into the muddy places, reminding us it is often there where we will see most fully. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation— Backpack Buddies and Nourishing Neighbors. Bless the hands doing your work to make these ministries possible. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

Beautiful Savior
by Robert Hobby

Adult Choir

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#188

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right
spirit within me. Cast me not away from your
presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Let us pray, God of good gifts,
**receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.


It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.


And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

*Worshipers will come forward to receive a wafer
and a small cup of wine.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



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, grant us peace.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#674

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! Repeat***

**Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'ry where! *Refrain***

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.**

**Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#611

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that lifegiving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.**

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

#811

**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Open your eyes.
Overcome your blindness.
See the world through the eyes of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn.
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

Christ, Be Our Light
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