

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2020

+ PREPARATION +

### As We Gather

*“I was blind, but now I see,” declares the man born blind in today’s Gospel, words we sing as well in the first stanza of that favorite hymn “Amazing Grace.” Baptism has sometimes been called our “enlightenment.” There our eyes were opened to God’s claim on us and to our status as God’s daughters and sons. Thus our Lenten “Baptismal Journey” continues as we also hear the call to open the eyes of the world and bring enlightenment into darkness.*

### Pre-Service Music

### Welcome and Announcements

*(During this Season of Lent, our Confession and Forgiveness is incorporated into the body of our service.)*

+ ENTRANCE +

*(All who are able please stand.)*

### Entrance Hymn

### Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

LSB 914

[Tune: REGENT SQUARE, LSB 367]

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten<br>Radiance of the Father’s face,<br>Word made flesh, who lived among us<br>Full of truth and full of grace,<br>Shine upon our human darkness;<br>Pierce the night that shrouds our race. | 2 | Word eternal, through Your being<br>God created all we see,<br>When the empty spaces echoed<br>With the Father’s “Let there be . . .”<br>Light and life burst from the glorious<br>Power of Your majesty! |
| 3 | Still Your brooding Spirit hovers<br>Over chaos, dark and deep,<br>Calling out with invitation:<br>“Rise, awaken from your sleep;<br>Christ the Lord will shine upon you<br>And from death your soul shall keep.”         |   |   |

## Opening Sentences, Greeting, and Prayer of the Day

**P** Behold, now is the acceptable time;

**C** **now is the day of salvation.**

**P** Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**C** **that the light of your face may shine on us.**

**P** May your justice shine like the sun;

**C** **and may the poor be lifted up.**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray . . . Bend your ears 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## Hymn for Lenten Reflection

## I Wank to Walk as a Child of the Light LSB 411

1 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*

*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.

2 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*

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*(All please sit)*

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

## Old Testament Reading

## Isaiah 42:14-16

*The Lord promises restoration and sight to the blind.*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know,

in paths that they have not known I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before the m into light, the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

## Psalm 142

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;\*  
with my voice I plead for mercy | to the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>**I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;\* I tell my trouble be- | fore him.**  
<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me, you | know my way!\*  
In the path where I walk they have hidden a | trap for me.  
<sup>4</sup>**Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice | of me;\*  
no refuge remains to me; no one cares | for my soul.**  
<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, | O LORD;\*  
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the | living.”  
<sup>6</sup>**Attend to my cry, for I am brought | very low!\***  
Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too | strong for me!  
<sup>7</sup>**Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks | to your name!\***

## Epistle

## Ephesians 5:8-14

*Our lives, lived in the light of Jesus, reflect his light to the world.*

<sup>8</sup> [Brothers and sisters,] at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Choir Anthem      We Are Marching in the Light of God      (South Africa)**

We are marching in the light of God . . .

We are singing . . .

We are praying . . .

*(All please stand.)*

**Holy Gospel      Saint John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

*Jesus heals a man blind from birth.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.

<sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(All please sit.)*

## **Sermon**

*(All please stand.)*

### **Confession of Sins and Forgiveness**

**P** Let us return to the covenant of our baptism as we confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

*(Silence for a time of silent reflection)*

**P** Holy God,

**C** **we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

**P** By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of + Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. May almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Confession of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)**

**P** Having returned to the covenant of our baptism, let us confess together that faith into which we were baptized.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

*(All please sit.)*

## Offering Hymn

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound LSB 744

- 1 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!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.
- 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.

*(Please stand as the Offering is brought forward.)*

## + PRAYERS AND BLESSING +

### Prayer of the Church

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

*(after each petition)*

- P** Hear us, O God.

- C** **Your mercy in great.**

*(The prayers conclude:)*

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

- C** **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

- C** **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** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your baptismal journey. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you + peace.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LSB 545

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Word of God, come down on earth,<br>Living rain from heav'n descending;<br>Touch our hearts and bring to birth<br>Faith and hope and love unending.<br>Word almighty, we revere You;<br>Word made flesh, we long to hear You.   | 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see,<br>Speak and heal our mortal blindness;<br>Deaf we are: our healer be;<br>Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.<br>Be our Word in pity spoken,<br>Heal the world, by sin now broken. |
| 4 Word that speaks God's tender love,<br>One with God beyond all telling,<br>Word that sends us from above,<br>God the Spirit, with us dwelling,<br>Word of truth, to all truth lead us;<br>Word of life, with one bread feed us. |   |

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## Dismissal

**A** Go in peace, marked with the cross of Christ!

**C** Thanks be to God.

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**BIRTHDAYS:** Cliff Berry, Monday 3/23

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