



MARCH 22, 2026 | 9:00 AM | FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from the ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But you, O Lord, have mercy on us. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, most merciful Creator, for Jesus' sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

KYRIE From the *American Lutheran Hymnal*
 MINISTER: CHOIR OR CONGREGATION:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

From *The Hymnal*, ©1941 Eden Publishing House. Public Domain

Hearken now unto the comforting assurance ... In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

#47

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* COLLECT (Prayer of the Day)

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

LESSON FROM THE PROPHETS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The 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." Samuel 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.' Invite 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." Samuel 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?" He 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel 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." He 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." Then 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.

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Blankets and school kits

GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then 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." Some 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. So 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."

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

So 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man

* BENEDICTION

The time has come to depart this holy place.

Be not afraid.

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love.

When you leave this place may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and may everyone you meet see Christ in you.

Amen.

Go, bring the light of Christ to the world and may God's blessings enfold you every step of the way.

Thanks be to God!

* RESPONSE

NUNC DIMITTUS

Music: Richard Farrant (c. 1530–1580)

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

1 Holy One, now let your servant go in peace:
2 My own eyes have seen
3 Which you have prepared
4 A light to reveal you to the nations

your word has been fulfilled.
the salvation
in the presence of all people:
and the glory of your people Israel.

POSTLUDE

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****Don't forget to order your Easter BREAKFAST TICKETS
AND lilies (\$25) or Easter tulips (\$16) today!**



Musicians today are Tiffany Bucheger, Saint Stephens Chime Choir and Saint Stephens Choir.

Radio Ministry is sponsored in memory of my son, Scott Berndt, and daughter, Lisa Berndt-Fischer from Eunice Berndt.

Please join us following worship for our Volunteer Appreciation Coffee Hour! Enjoy cake, pastries, coffee and our sincere appreciation for those who build the family of Saint Stephens!

