

**LENT**  
**Recognizing Our Need**  
**3-15-26**

**THEME: Recognizing Our Need For Sight**

*Lent is the season of the Church Year when we recognize our greatest needs. During Lent, we realize that in Christ all our greatest needs are met. God knows what we need even when we don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.*

† GOD CALLS †

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## † GOD FORGIVES †

### CONFESSION

**Pastor:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us.

**ALL:** Lord of Life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

### ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen.

### SONG OF PRAISE

“Holy Spirit Light Divine” (LSB 496 v. 1, 2, 3)

Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace;  
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you all!

**ALL:** And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

<sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

<sup>12</sup> “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now 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 asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

<sup>17</sup> Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents.

<sup>19</sup> “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

<sup>20</sup> “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.”

<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

<sup>25</sup> He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

<sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

<sup>28</sup> Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. <sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

<sup>34</sup> To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!”  
And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup> “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, [\[a\]](#) “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

## SERMON

**SONG OF THE DAY (new song for Lent)**  
**“It Was Finished Upon That Cross” (The Sing Hymnal #248)**

**How I love the voice of Jesus  
on the cross of Calvary.  
He declares his work is finished;  
he has spoken this hope to me.  
Though the sun had ceased its shining,  
though the war appeared as lost,  
Christ had triumphed over evil.  
It was finished upon that cross.**

Now the curse, it has been broken;  
Jesus paid the price for me.  
Full the pardon he has offered.  
Great the welcome that I receive.  
Boldly I approach my Father,  
clothed in Jesus' righteousness.  
There is no more guilt to carry.  
It was finished upon that cross.

Death was once my great opponent,  
fear once had a hold on me.  
But the Son who died to save us  
rose that we would be free indeed.  
Free from ev'ry plan of darkness,  
free to live and free to love  
Death is dead and Christ is risen.  
It was finished upon that cross.

Onward to eternal glory,  
to my Savior and my God.  
I rejoice in Jesus' vict'ry.  
It was finished upon that cross.

### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**BRINGING OUR BLESSING**  
*with Thanksgiving in our Offering*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**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.

† GOD GIVES †

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE DISTRIBUTION**  
**“Amazing Grace”**

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!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

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

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

“My Song is Love Unknown”

1-My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I That for my sake  
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

2-He came from his blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend!

3-Sometimes they strew his way  
And his sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King,  
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,  
And for his death They thirst and cry.

4-Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
Themselves displease And 'gainst him rise

5-They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;

A murderer they save,  
The prince of life they slay.  
Yet Cheerful he To suff'ring goes  
That he his foes  
From thence might free.

6- In Life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave,  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

7-Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like thine,  
This my friend, In whose sweet praise  
I all my days Could gladly spend!

#### THE DISMISSAL

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS US OUT †

#### CLOSING SONG "Jesus Messiah"

He became sin, who knew no sin;  
That we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,  
The Rescue for sinners,  
the Ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out, all for love.

The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,  
The Rescue for sinners,  
the Ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You,  
all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God,  
The Light of the world.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,  
The Rescue for sinners,  
the Ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

### BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

**ALL:** Amen

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!