

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

#### Isaiah 42:14-21 (ESV)

<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 them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup> They are turned back and utterly put to shame who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." <sup>18</sup> Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup> Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup> He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup> The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

#### Ephesians 5:8-14 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> for 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."

#### John 9:1-41 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> As he 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 spit 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>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<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>18</sup> The Jews<sup>Ⓜ</sup> 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 <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus<sup>Ⓜ</sup> to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> 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?" <sup>28</sup> And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <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>Ⓜ</sup> <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." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."



# AWAKE

*O sleeper, and*

# ARISE

*from the dead,  
and Christ will*

# SHINE

*on you.*

*Ephesians 5:14, ESV*

March 19, 2026

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626

[www.zionhemlock.org](http://www.zionhemlock.org) ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

*Darkness into His Marvelous Light*

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. "For his righteousness' sake," He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns "the darkness before them into light" (Is. 42:16) because He is "the light of the world" (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh "while it is day" until that night "when no one can work" (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though "at one time you were darkness," now "you are light in the Lord" (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to "awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead" (Eph. 5:14).

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Three	184
OPENING HYMN "Arise and Shine in Splendor"	396
SERMON HYMN "Beautiful Savior"	537
SERMON "Wake Up!"	Ephesians 5:8-14
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"	623
"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"	643
CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"	922

**Pastor** Larry Warsinski  
**Organist** Tami Mosher  
**A/V** Dave Hutfilz  
**Elders** Paul Bohn and Dick Bluemer  
**Ushers** Dale Rohde and Joel Hutfilz  
**Altar Guild** Mark and Judy Hingston

**Our Measure of Love and Gifts**

**Attendance last week** 44 Midweek Lent 23 *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,729 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$3,128; Capital Projects \$5; God's Helping Hands \$565.

**Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday:** March 16- Jason Bluemer, Kay Card, Mckenna Kumar; March 18- Jeff Teske, Cindy Hodges; March 21- Dakota Baccary, Maxine Diener (her 93<sup>rd</sup>), Logan Valliere.

**Today's Memory Verse** ~ "God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4-5

**Voters' meeting** will be held immediately following the service in the church March 15, 2026. All confirmed members age 18 and over are encouraged to attend.

**Richland Lutheran Cemetery** ~ It is time to clean up the grounds and prepare for Spring. Please clean off all winter decorations such as grave blankets and wreaths off of gravesites by April 1st.

**Easter Sunday Breakfast** will be held on April 5 after the Easter Sunrise Service. Please bring a dish to pass. Signup sheet is in the narthex.

**A Living Portrayal of the Last Supper**, a theatrical performance with music and song, will be held on Sunday, March 29 at 6:00pm at St. John XXIII Catholic Church, Hemlock. Public is welcome to attend.



**Lessons From A Little Voice** ~A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"



"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say."

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"