

# ***WELCOME TO WORSHIP!***



**Responsive Prayer for Family Worship  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2020**

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**Abiding Presence Church**

*The Reverend Paul Egensteiner, Bishop  
The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor*

## **Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 22, 2020**

### ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Responsive Prayer***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

#### **GATHERING - The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

*Leader:* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
*All:* **have mercy on us.**

*All:* **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.**

*All:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

*All:* 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.

*All:* 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.

*Leader:* Show us your mercy, O God,  
*All:* **and grant us your salvation.**

*Leader:* Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
*All:* **and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

*Leader:* Give peace in all the world;  
*All:* **for only in you can we live in safety.**

*Leader:* Let your way be known upon earth;  
*All:* **your saving health among all nations.**

*Leader:* Let not the needy be forgotten,  
*All:* **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

*Leader:* Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
*All:* **and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**

*Leader:* Lord, hear my prayer,  
*All:* **and let my cry come before you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.  
*All:* **And also with you.**

*Leader:* Let us pray.  
*All:* **Bend your ear 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.  
Amen.**



**WORD** - God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

*Lector:* A reading from the First Book of the Prophet Samuel:

*Lector:* <sup>1</sup>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." <sup>2</sup>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.'" <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

<sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>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.

*Lector:* Word of God. Word of Life.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: *Psalm 23***

*Assistant:* The Psalm is spoken responsively.

*Assistant:* <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

*All:* <sup>2</sup>**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

*Assistant:* <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

*All:* <sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

*Assistant:* <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

*All:* <sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**All:** Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (John 8:12)

## GOSPEL: *John 9:1-41*

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

**Leader:** The holy gospel according to Saint John:

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** <sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked 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>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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>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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>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?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>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." <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>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.” <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.”

<sup>18</sup>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 <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 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.” <sup>22</sup>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. <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 they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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>Then 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, “Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person 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 entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus 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.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

*Leader:* The gospel of the Lord.

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## REFLECTION

*The reading of scripture is followed by silence for reflection. You may want to view Pastor Schoepflin’s sermon at this point by going to [www.abidingpresencechurch.org](http://www.abidingpresencechurch.org), clicking on the Worship tab and then on Sermon Videos.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

*Leader:* God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

*All:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* God of insight, empower us to care for one another as the world and our nation endure the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Give us strength and perseverance while we face uncertainties in the days ahead. Let your spirit bless and guide our government leaders and health care professionals. Hear us, O God.

*All:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day, especially Carol, Gerry Scott, Melinda, Alice, Delores, Kathy Ray, Noelle, Marissa, Jessica, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Protect all health workers as they minister to those in need.. Hear us, O God.

*All:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* God of insight, remind us in these uncertain times to relish moments of joy. Help us underscore the gift of special moments, especially the birthdays of Jennifer, Shelby, Daniel, Roy, Barbara, Christopher, Benjamin, Daniel, Nicholas, Barbara, Derek, and Jessica, and the wedding anniversaries of Everett and Donna, and Shane and Kim. Hear us, O God.

*All:* **Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

*All:* **Your mercy is great.**

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

*All:* **Amen.**

**SENDING - God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

## **BLESSING**

*Leader:* Let us bless the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Leader:* Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to  
+everlasting life.

*All:* **Amen.**

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**IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING ARE:** Alex, Ana Maria, Linda Annunziato, Bellieu family: Kim, Josh, Faith, Noah, Eden & Micah, Margaret Belt, Bob Benson, Marie Benson, Betsey Berry, Bill, Bob, Joseph Bruce, Matthew Bruce, Emily Burns, Donnamarie Calabrese, Johanna Calvo, James Casinover, Joe Clark, Connor, Dan & Joyce, Marilyn DeFendis, Pat Deihl, Danny F., Sylvia Fiammetta, James Forberg, Gene Gaye, Melinda Geis, Walter Halfmann, Karl Hank, Ed and June Heidelberger, Anthony and Felicia Hudson, Walter Jenkins, Jennifer, Ginny Kacin, Evelyn Kaestner, Keith, Gerry Krush, Sr., Neil LaFerlita, Maria LaFerlita, Ed Lichtenwald, Doris Lindros, Miriam Mayer-Henson, Kathy McCaffrey, Thomas McCormack, Katherine McGee, Ralph Mormile, Jeff Murrey, Pauline Muth, Christopher Nallan, Kim and Bobby Nallan, Andreas Nabholz, Noelle Nathan, Nick, Joe Pagano, Alice Pecchio, Ron and Brenda Pennix, Evelyn Pucci, Jessica Pucci, Joey Pucci, Kathy Pucci, Ron Pucci, Raymond, Phyllis Renaldo, Charlotte Roessle, Sam, William Sanfilippo, Ronnie and Jeff S., Kathy Smith, Lisa Smith, Roy Starke, Pete Strange, Lenore Strich, Eric Swanson, John Anthony Tempesta, Tony, Scott Trafas, Varcak Family, Marshall Veniar, Emilie Vernier, Michael Wagner, Arthur Wakefield, Carol Walderman, Bud Weber, Peter Weichner, Rose Williams, Bill Witte, Wolfgang Zinnert, Wanda Zurlo.

**FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** Joseph Begley, Liam Begley, Carlo Calvo, Paul Cassuti, John Delano, Jonathan Dixon, Jason Ericksen, Walton Delano Gouldin, Eric Hank, Jr., Michael Hewson, Alycia A. Howard, Dr. Daniel Howard, Claire James, Tyler Kuchenbrod, Justin MacDonald, Katie Mayer, Daniel Murray, Richard Mutari, Jay Rosenwald, Jake Sass, Kaitlin Stark, Bryce Michael Wheeler.

***If you know of anyone who should be added to or removed from the prayer list, please call or email Debra Nicholas at the church office 631-269-6454 ext. 11/ nicholas.debbie@yahoo.com***

**Daily Bible Readings for Year A (March 22 – March 29)**  
**From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP***

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 3/22     *Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

Mon 3/23     Psalm 146  
Isaiah 59:9-19  
Acts 9:1-20

Tues 3/24     Psalm 146  
Isaiah 42:14-21  
Colossians 1:9-14

Wed 3/25     Psalm 146                     *The Annunciation of Our Lord*  
Isaiah 60:17-22                Isaiah 7:10-14  
Matthew 9:27-34                Psalm 45

Thus 3/26     Psalm 130                        Hebrews 10:4-10  
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8—3:3        Luke 1:26-38  
Revelation 10:1-11

Fri 3/27     Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 33:10-16  
Revelation 11:15-19

Sat 3/28     Psalm 130  
Ezekiel 36:8-15  
Luke 24:44-53

Sun 3/29     *Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

# **ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN PARISH NEWS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020**

**THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF OUR ABIDING PRESENCE PARISHIONERS IS THE TOP PRIORITY IN ANY DECISION MADE:** As we continue to adjust practices to reduce the risk of the coronavirus in our church and preschool, we will notify members by phone or email with cancellations and closings. Updates will also be posted on our church website at [abidingpresencechurch.org](http://abidingpresencechurch.org). We will continue to monitor this situation and provide you with information as we are able.

**THANK YOU** to those who have been mailing in their offering envelopes while we have not been able to meet for worship! Did you know that you can also make an offering online on our website? Please visit [abidingpresencechurch.org](http://abidingpresencechurch.org) and click "giving" to make a donation. Thank you all for your faithful support of our parish.

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE ORDERS FOR PALM/EASTER PLANTS AND DEDICATIONS:** Palm orders are due by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and Easter plant orders are due by Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. You may place your order by calling or leaving a message for Marian at the church office 631-269-6454 ext. 10 or emailing your request to [marindrost@yahoo.com](mailto:marindrost@yahoo.com). Easter plants will either be distributed to those who placed an order or planted on the church grounds. Please adhere to the deadline to ensure that your dedication is printed in the Palm Sunday and Easter bulletins.

**FOOD PANTRY:** The food pantry is always in need of one dish meals, peanut butter and jelly, and all non perishable foods. Thank you to Cyndi Nichols for delivering to the food pantry for the month of March. If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile ministry, please contact Cyndi Nichols 631-896-9542 or email [cyndi.nichols@gmail.com](mailto:cyndi.nichols@gmail.com).

**ANTHONY'S COAL FIRED PIZZA FUNDRAISER:** Enjoy take out at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in Commack Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> for lunch between 11am and 2pm or dinner from 5pm – 8pm. 20% of the proceeds will benefit our APLC Youth Mission Trip. When you place your order, please let your server know that you are participating in a fundraising event for Abiding Presence Lutheran Church. Thank you for your support!

**HOLY LAND TRIP:** The Western Suffolk Conference has organized a trip to the Holy Land, November 6<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. To visit the sites of the New Testament and walk where Jesus walked is truly a life and faith changing experience. There are informational brochures on the narthex table. For more information please see Pr. Schoepflin.

**SOLES FOR SOULS:** Donations of shoes are being collected through March 29<sup>th</sup> for Soles for Souls. Over 30 million pairs of shoes have been delivered in all 50 states to children and adults who would otherwise be prevented from attending school or work. Everyone deserves a good pair of shoes. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and can be left in the bin located at the lower parking lot entrance. Thank you!

### **WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EASTER BASKET COLLECTION FOR THE NORTHPORT FOOD PANTRY:**

Easter baskets and items to fill them are being collected for the children of families served by the food pantry. Items should be unopened and may include the following: Chocolate eggs, bunnies and crosses, jelly beans, plastic eggs, Easter grass, small books, games, puzzles, coloring books and crayons. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and can be left in the bin located at the lower parking lot entrance.

**PASTA AND THE WORD:** This month, instead of a hot pasta meal, we will provide a super-sized, lovingly prepared grab and go bag lunch to limit person to person contact.

We need your help to prepare these bag lunches. We typically provide a sandwich, cookies and piece of fruit. We are asking your help in assembling these ingredients or even complete lunches. Items needed include: 1 or 2 sandwiches (PB&J, bologna or turkey, with or without cheese. Please no ham, or mustard or mayo. Dry only) Fruit, (orange, clementine, banana, raisins, apples or fruit cups) Snack/desert (cookies, brownies, chips or pudding cups) Drink (bottle of water or juice pouch/box. Please no soda or glass containers) Paper lunch bags, snack and sandwich size zipper lock plastic bags. In order to minimize exposure to the virus and maintain proper social distancing we are asking that you prepare the sandwiches or ingredients, at your own home, while practicing good hygiene (wear gloves, if possible, an apron and hat or hairnet). Please remember to wash your hands before and after. If you are able to help, please prepare as many sandwiches, complete lunch bags or bagged snack ingredients as you are able, and **deliver them to my house (2 Wenmore Road, Commack) on either Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> or Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.** We have a covered porch and can practice "contactless delivery" by leaving your donations on the porch. Randy and I will deliver and distribute the meals at Trinity Wyandanch on our regularly scheduled day, Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. We can also use 2 or 3 additional volunteers to assist in the transportation and distribution in Wyandanch. If you have questions and are able to help please call (631-670-7555) or email me ([lmccaffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:lmccaffrey@hotmail.com))

Thank you for your continued dedication to this ministry and be well. Lisa McCaffrey and Randy Montellaro

**THE APLC WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** is currently reading "The Edge of Lost" by Kristina McMorris. From the critically acclaimed, bestselling author of Sold on a Monday, comes an epic story of Alcatraz, immigration and second chances that moves from the islands of Ireland to New York to San Francisco Bay and back again. Kristina McMorris weaves fascinating insights into the immigrant experience in America, Prohibition, the world of vaudeville, and life on the prison island of Alcatraz with themes of identity, family and justice in her highly acclaimed fourth novel. Meeting location to be determined. For more info call or text Karen Wallin at 631-235-4317.

**HELP NEEDED WITH MAINTAINING OUR PRESCHOOL WEBSITE.** If you are familiar with the 'SquareSpace' website platform and are willing/able to help, please contact Gerry Krush at 516-768-7511 [gkrush@optonline.net](mailto:gkrush@optonline.net).