

St. Thomas Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Rev. Dr. Martha M. Cruz, Interim Pastor, St. Thomas
The Rev. James P. O'Hanlon, Pastor, St. Paul's
Fred Brandt, Accompanist

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - March 22, 2020

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for individual reflection.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: "God Whose Almighty Word"

1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

2 Lord, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind:
oh, now to humankind
let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

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.

PSALM: Psalm 23

1The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**2The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

3You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**4Though 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.**

5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

John 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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."

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of

Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Come Follow Me," the Savior Spake

1	"Come, follow me," the Savior spake, "all in my way abiding; deny yourselves, the world forsake, obey my call and guiding. Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide; take my example for your guide.		My heart, my mind, my strength, my all to God I yield; on him I call.
2	"I am the light; I light the way, a godly life displaying; I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying. I am the way, and well I show how you should sojourn here below."	4	"I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's salvation; your heart from ev'ry guile to free, from sin and its temptation. I am the refuge of the soul and lead you to your heav'nly goal."
3	My heart abounds in lowliness; my soul with love is glowing; and gracious words my lips express, with meekness overflowing.	5	Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed, and, firmly clinging to his word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain the crown of heav'nly life obtain.

THE PRAYERS: Response – **Your mercy is great**

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.

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.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

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God of insight, help us to be creative and brave in making our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

THE PEACE

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God,

speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

✠ bless you, unbind you,

and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN: "What God Ordains Is Right"

1 **Whatever God ordains is right;
his will is just and holy.
He holds us in his perfect might;
in him, our lives are godly.
He is our God and all we need,
the Father who preserves us still;
to him we bend each heart and will.**

2 **Whatever God ordains is right,
and he will not deceive us.
He leads us in the way of light
and will not ever leave us.
In him we rest, who makes the best
of all the stumbling turns we take
and loves us for his mercy's sake.**

3 **Whatever God ordains is right;
all that he does is for us.
He heals our souls and gives us sight
and puts no ill before us.
Our God is true; he makes us new;
our lives are built upon his rock,
our cornerstone and building block.**

4 **Whatever God ordains is right;
He guides our joy and sadness.
He is our life and blessed light;
in him alone is gladness.
We see his face, the way of grace;
he holds us in his mighty arm
and keeps us safe from ev'ry harm.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

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SERMON

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| 1 | "Come, follow me," the Savior spake,
"all in my way abiding;
deny yourselves, the world forsake,
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Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;
take my example for your guide. | | My heart, my mind, my strength, my all
to God I yield; on him I call. |
| 2 | "I am the light; I light the way,
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³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of

Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Come Follow Me," the Savior Spake

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | "Come, follow me," the Savior spake,
"all in my way abiding;
deny yourselves, the world forsake,
obey my call and guiding.
Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;
take my example for your guide. | | My heart, my mind, my strength, my all
to God I yield; on him I call. |
| 2 | "I am the light; I light the way,
a godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
how you should sojourn here below." | 4 | "I teach you how to shun and flee
what harms your soul's salvation;
your heart from ev'ry guile to free,
from sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
and lead you to your heav'nly goal." |
| 3 | My heart abounds in lowliness;
my soul with love is glowing;
and gracious words my lips express,
with meekness overflowing. | 5 | Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
and take the cross appointed,
and, firmly clinging to his word,
in suffering be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
the crown of heav'nly life obtain. |

THE PRAYERS: Response – **Your mercy is great**

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.

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.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

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God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

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God of insight, help us to be creative and brave in making our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within our hearts. Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

THE PEACE

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God,

speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

✠ bless you, unbind you,

and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL HYMN: "What God Ordains Is Right"

**1 Whatever God ordains is right;
 his will is just and holy.
 He holds us in his perfect might;
 in him, our lives are godly.
 He is our God and all we need,
 the Father who preserves us still;
 to him we bend each heart and will.**

**2 Whatever God ordains is right,
 and he will not deceive us.
 He leads us in the way of light
 and will not ever leave us.
 In him we rest, who makes the best
 of all the stumbling turns we take
 and loves us for his mercy's sake.**

**3 Whatever God ordains is right;
 all that he does is for us.
 He heals our souls and gives us sight
 and puts no ill before us.
 Our God is true; he makes us new;
 our lives are built upon his rock,
 our cornerstone and building block.**

**4 Whatever God ordains is right;
 He guides our joy and sadness.
 He is our life and blessed light;
 in him alone is gladness.
 We see his face, the way of grace;
 he holds us in his mighty arm
 and keeps us safe from ev'ry harm.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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“Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

St. Thomas Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Rev. Dr. Martha M. Cruz, Interim Pastor, St. Thomas
The Rev. James P. O'Hanlon, Pastor, St. Paul's
Fred Brandt, Accompanist

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - March 22, 2020

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for individual reflection.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: "God Whose Almighty Word"

**1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**2 Lord, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind:
oh, now to humankind
let there be light!**

**3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!**

**4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light!**

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

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.

PSALM: Psalm 23

1The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**2The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

3You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**4Though 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.**

5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

John 9:1-41

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