

Gathering People to Christ,
Building Believers in Christ,
Serving the World as Christ



✝ Fourth Sunday in Lent ✝
March 22, 2020
Worship for Home

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Becka Koudelka, Office Administrator, x26

Esther Williamson, Deaconess

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Duer, Emeritus

Opening Hymn "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious
Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and
Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us
storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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BEACH SPRING

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Tune: Public domain

Luke 4:16–21; Mark 10:13–16; John 1:1, 14, 29; 4:5–14 87 87 D

Invocation

Everyone makes the sign of the cross and says together:

All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Confession and Absolution

All: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Observe a moment of silence to reflect on God's Word for self-examination.

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen!

Psalm 142

Select someone from the family to read the Psalm, or read it responsively by verses.

^{142:1} With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

² I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

³ When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴ Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

⁵ I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

⁶ Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

⁷ Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

The Kyrie

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace of the whole world for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this our home and for all of us as we offer You our worship and prayer let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Hymn of Praise "Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, sts. 1–4, alt.; *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, Richmond, 1790, st. 5; Text and tune: Public domain
Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959 Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

NEW BRITAIN
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A family member can read the Scripture lessons, or the whole family could take turns reading a verse at a time.

Announcement of the Day

Reader: The Lent season is one of repentance and renewal, and today through God's Word we recognize the times of sinful darkness and spiritual blindness. Isaiah identifies the blindness that is not of the eyes but of the heart. Paul reminds us of the light that exposes our sin, but the greater call is to walk in the light of Christ. In the Holy Gospel, a man blind from birth is healed by Jesus but experiences an even greater sight of light away from the darkness of unbelief. In this season of Lent, even in times of darkness, we continue to follow Christ to the cross as we hear His Word and rejoice in His light of truth.

*(Amid the unbelief of His people,
God will turn darkness to light.)*

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ They are

turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

¹⁸ Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹ The LORD was pleased, for His righteousness' sake, to magnify His law and make it glorious.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to

*(Once in darkness, we are now
children of light in the Lord.)*

speak of the things that they do in secret.

¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

(Jesus heals a man born blind.)

^{9:1} As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ 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 ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸ 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?"

⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ 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." ¹² They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

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

¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

²¹ 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." ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ 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." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

²⁶ They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" ²⁷ 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?" ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. ³¹ 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.
³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You

have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near Him heard these things, and said to Him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended

into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Sermon

Depending upon the time of day you do the service, you may be able to listen to the morning sermon at this link: <https://soundcloud.com/pastor-tritten>

Another source for a sermon is The Lutheran Hour: <https://www.lutheranhour.org/>

Prayers

Leader: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. As we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

Benediction

All: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Closing Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

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