

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2020 ♦ 9:00 am



"I am the light of the world"

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C O Lord, who could stand?

P But with you there is forgiveness;

C so that we may worship and serve you. (Psalm 130: 3-4)

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly.

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

Give us new hearts and right spirits,

that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
**C 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**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such

people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

HOLY GOSPEL 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.”

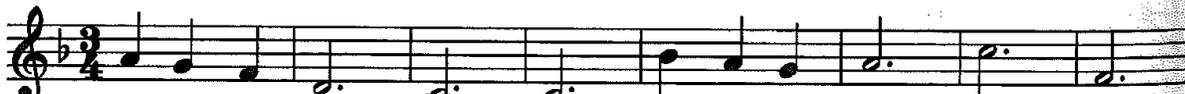
²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How 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

SONG “Open My Eyes, Lord”



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
 2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
 3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
 2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
 3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

OFFERING

While we cannot offer our gifts in worship, we can still support the ministry of our congregation with our treasures. **Please remember to mail in your offering or make your offering online.** Click on the DONATE link on the front page of our website to make a one-time or an ongoing contribution.

APOSTLES' CREED

AI I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS

(Response to each petition)

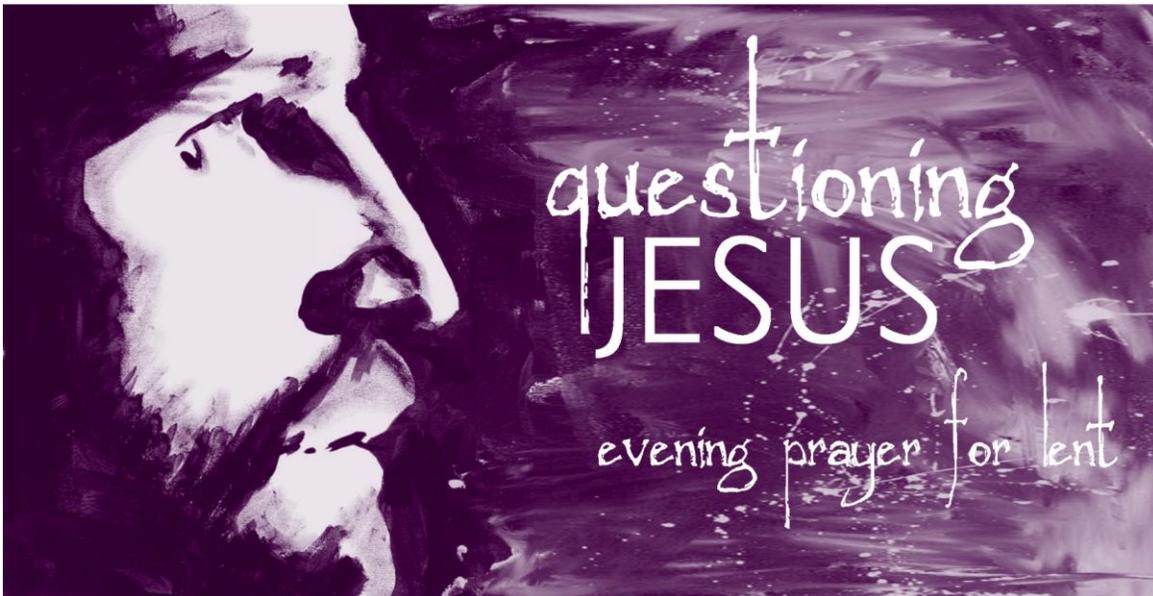
P Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER

AI 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

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C Amen
P Go in peace. Christ lives in you.
C Thanks be to God.



LIVE STREAMING THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 at 7:00 pm

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS

OUR ANNUAL YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER "NIGHT OF 100 STARS"

scheduled for April 26 will be postponed and "reimagined!"
Stay tuned for details.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP and PASSOVER SEDER
have been cancelled for this year.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FESTIVAL

Our Christmas Family Festival on **Saturday, December 5th**, will be our gift to our friends living in surrounding communities! It will take all of us to make this happen. We will have the Christmas Café, a living (no live critters!) nativity, crafts, a photo booth, music and much more! Please pray about how you can participate, then talk to Cindy Bartz - 651-307-9185 or Sally Warren - 651-226-4255.
Sign up at the Christmas Family Festival table.

GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Jon Marxhausen, Pastor

