

HOLY COMMUNION MARCH 19, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **Merciful God, we come to Your table trusting not in our own righteousness, but in Your abundant mercy. Grant us so to eat and drink the body and blood of Your dear Son, that we may live in Him and He in us, now and forever. Amen.***

CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

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, but now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. 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.



COMMEMORATION

***Joseph, guardian of Jesus** - The gospels are silent about much of Joseph's life. We know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. The Gospel of Luke shows him acting in accordance with both civil and religious law by returning to Bethlehem for the census and by presenting the child Jesus in the temple on the fortieth day after his birth. The Gospel of Matthew tells of Joseph's trust in God, who led him through visionary dreams. Because Joseph is not mentioned after the story of a young Jesus teaching in the temple, it is assumed that he died before Jesus reached adulthood.*

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (favorite) ... SBH # 499 2nd tune

Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

VOX DILECTI. 8 6 8 6 D

John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on my breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down, and drink, and live."
Look un - to me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, Wea - ry and worn and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life-giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my Star, my Sun;

I found in Him a rest - ing place, And He has made me glad.
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.
And in that light of life I'll walk, Till trav - eling days are done. A - MEN.

INVOCATION *(= All may make the sign of the cross.)*

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Gracious God,

C: We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve You in newness of life. AMEN.

P: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C: AMEN.

GREETING *(Please stand.)*

P: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

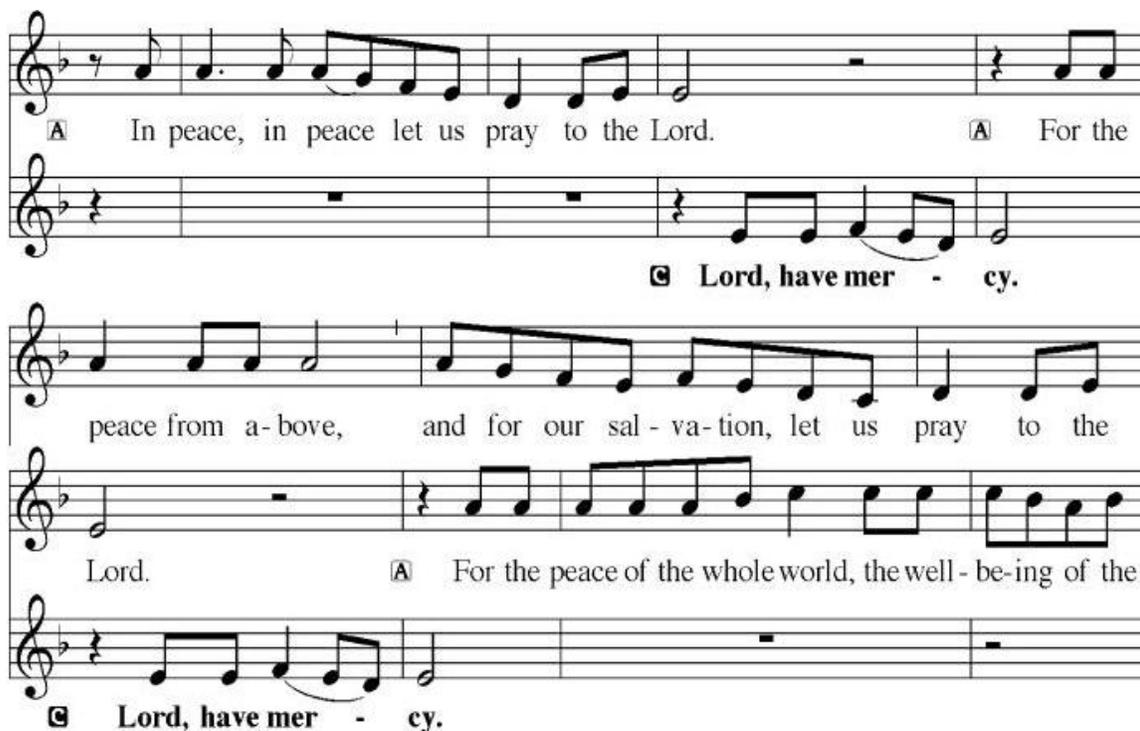
C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)

KYRIE *(WOV p. 12) (Congregation sings bold)*



A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

G Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

G Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their
C Lord, have mer - cy.
 wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
C A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together:

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.

RESPONSIVE READING...Psalm 23 *(congregation: indented)*

The LORD is my shepherd,

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters,

He restores my soul.

**He guides me in paths of righteousness
 for His name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
 for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

CHORUS “Surely Goodness and Mercy” (Maj # 361 - favorite)

CHORUS
 Sure-ly good-ness and mer- cy shall
 fol - low me All the days, all the days of my life; Sure-ly good-ness
 and mer- cy shall fol - low me All the days, all the days of my life.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

(Please sit.)

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Pg. 443

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:1-14 Pg. 1822

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please remain seated)*

“Open My Eyes, that I May See” verse 1 (Maj # 403 - favorite)

Clara H. Scott

Clara H. Scott



1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see Glimp-ses of truth Thou hast for me;
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send-est clear;

1 Place in my hands the won-der-ful key That shall un-clasp and set me free.
2 And while the wave-notes fall on my ear, Ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear.

Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;

1 O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
2 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

P: A dramatic reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John,
the 9th Chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPELJohn 9:1-41 Pg. 1664

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *verse 2*

SERMON *(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

“Personal Encounters with Jesus: A Blind Man”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"The Light of the World Is Jesus" Majesty # 641

1 The whole world was lost in the dark-ness of sin— The Light of the
2 No dark-ness have we who in Je - sus a - bide— The Light of the
3 No need of the sun-light in heav - en, we're told— The Light of that

1 world is Je - sus; Like sun-shine at noon-day His glo - ry shone in—
2 world is Je - sus; We walk in the Light when we fol - low our Guide—
3 world is Je - sus; The Lamb is the Light in the Cit - y of Gold—

1 The Light of the world is Je - sus.
2 The Light of the world is Je - sus. Come to the Light, 'tis
3 The Light of the world is Je - sus.

shin - ing for thee! Sweet - ly the Light has dawned up - on me; Once I was

blind, but now I can see— The Light of the world is Je - sus.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: We pray to the Lord; C: Lord, have mercy.)

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

P: The LORD be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the LORD.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

“Salvation Belongs to Our God” (WOV p47)



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☒ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, our living water and our merciful guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify You. You led Your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise You for Christ, our rock and our water, Who joined us in our desert, pouring out His life for the world.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Remembering, therefore, His life, death, and resurrection, we await Your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out Your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through Him all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy church, both now and forever. **C: AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

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. AMEN.

COMMUNION *(Please be seated)*

All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. "Sweet Hour of Prayer"Majesty # 515 (favorite)

1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,

and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are placed between the staves.

Text: William Walford, 1772-1850, alt. Music: SWEET HOUR, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

2. "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"WOV # 745

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 4 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please rise.)*

L: Let us pray together: **God of mercy, we give You thanks for seating us at Your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of Your Son, awakened by the breathing of Your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of Your love, which is revealed to all the world in the One Who came to give Himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

BLESSING

P: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN *“He Leadeth Me” (favorite) .. Majesty # 454*

1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
 2 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev-er mur-mur nor re-pine;
 3 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,
 What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.
 con-tent, what-ev-er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead-eth me.
 e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor-dan lead-eth me.

Refrain
 He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.
 His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834–1918 Music: HE LEADETH ME, William B. Bradbury, 1815–1868

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit,
 let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we
 have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments.

Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place.

You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.

MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

COVER ART: Nicole LoConte

GREETERS: 8:30-Skylre Hahn / 10:45-Irene Graham

SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

PROJECTION: Karen Brown

SONG LEADER: 8:30-Bella Zyskowski, Nancy Cook

LITURGIST: 8:30-Mike Zyskowski / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

DRAMATIC GOSPEL:

8:30-Josh Miller, Mike & Penny Miller, Joe and Adam Barlow

10:45-Jim Femister, Ken & Cindy Yoxheimer, Rich & Nancy Schmidt

USHERS: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Irene Graham

COMMUNION: 8:30-Mike Zyskowski, Bella Zyskowski, Seth Miller
/ 10:45-Lyn Stryker

ALTAR GUILD: Irene Graham, Sharon Branigan

PHONETREE: *Volunteer Needed*

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Pat Gilbert (610) 867-7759

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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