

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

March 19th, 2023

8:30 am & 11:00 am Services

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Introduction to the Day: 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

Prelude

In the Presence of Jehovah with Surely the Presence of the Lord arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

Anthem

Prayer of the Children by Kurt Bestor, arr. Andrea Klouse; Grace Note Quartet

Can you hear the prayer of the children on bended knee in the shadow of an unknown room? Empty eyes with no more tears to cry, turning heavenward toward the light. Cryin' Jesus help me to see the mornin' light of one more day, But if I should die before I wake, I pray my soul to take.

Can you feel the hearts of the children aching for home for something of their very own. Reaching hands with nothing to hold on to, but hope for a better day, a better day. Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the love again in my own land, But if unknown roads lead away from home, give me loving arms, 'way from harm.

*Can you hear the voice of the children softly pleading for silence in their shattered world? Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate, blood of the innocent on their hands. Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the sun again, upon my face? For when darkness clears, I know you're near, bringing peace again. Dali cuje te sve jecje molitve?** *Can you hear the prayer of the children?*

**Croatian for "Can you hear the prayer of the children?"*

Please stand as you are able.

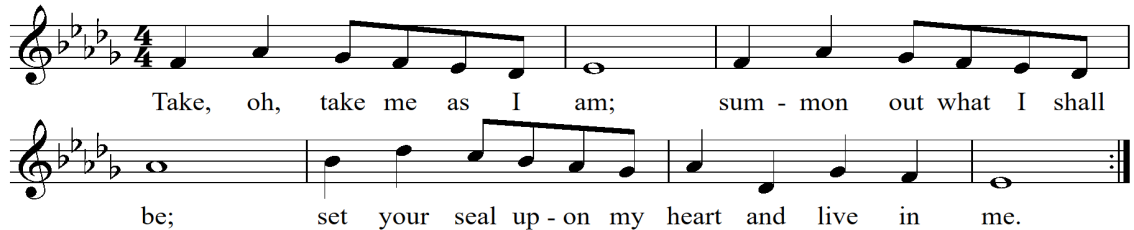
Preparation for Worship

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection.

We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text & Music: John Bell, b. 1949. Tune: Take Me As I Am, 77 74. Copyright © 1995 Iona Community, admin GIA Publ. Inc. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Confession and Forgiveness with the Kyrie

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

Gracious God, have mercy on us. In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us.

Silence is kept for reflection.



For self-centered living, and for wandering from your resurrection life:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



For jealousies that divide families and nations and that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, have mercy on us.



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.

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.**



Text: Traditional. Music: John R. Paradowski & Barbara Semmann. From Processional Kyrie. Copyright © 2003 Choristers Guild. publisher. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Litany for the 4th Sunday in Lent

God Most High, we praise you for sending your Son Jesus into the world.

Jesus has shown us that He is truly the light of this darkened world.

The blind man's life was transformed and his eyes opened to see and experience God's unfailing love and power.

Just as the blind man, may we be a living testimony of God's grace, love and mercy.

God is the cure giver and should be our vision and our desire.

We as followers of Christ Jesus are called to be a light in the world.

Keep our eyes open to seek you only

so that each day we see the needs of others and share our joy.

Gathering Song

#722 O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

Greeting

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Please be seated.

11:00 Anthem

Do Unto Others by Vicki Hancock Wright

New Creation Choir [Amelia Sajdak, Soloist]

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Be kind to others, be good to others, be fair to others as you would have them do unto you. Try to be patient and forgiving, a friend in all you say and do. God will guide you to love others as God has shown love to you.

Word

Psalm

Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

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

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.

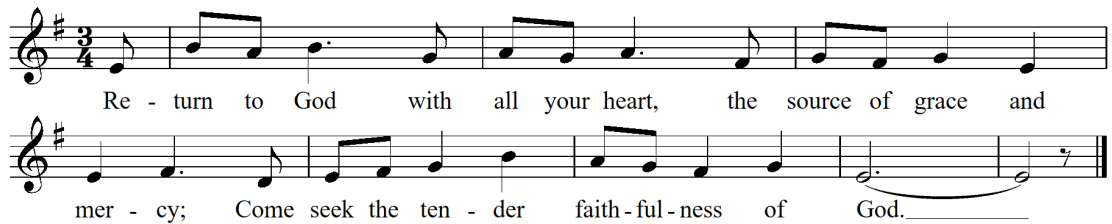
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to God with All Your Heart



Words and Music: Marty Haugen. Copyright © 1990 GIA Publ. Inc. Chicago. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-11, 30-34

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

The holy gospel according to John, the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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.

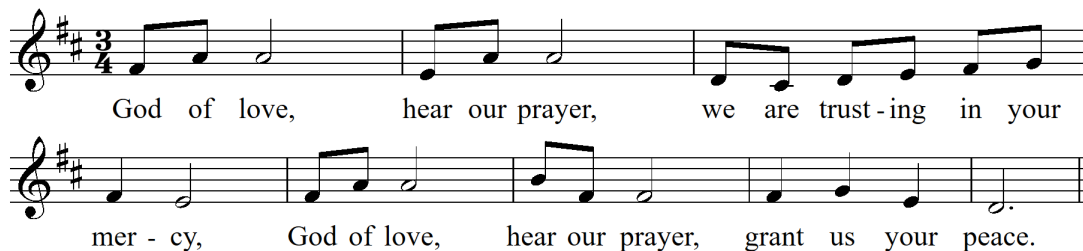
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Call to Prayer

God of Love, Hear Our Prayer



Words and Music: John Helgen. Copyright © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

...Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering

8:30

11:00

Hope for Resolution by Lee Afdahl - Bells Angels

Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone – arr. Joel Raney
Grace Note Quartet

Andrew Cherney, John Schilling, Steve Winters & Al
Van Lith

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

When Grains of Wheat Fall

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground,
 2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live;
 New To life with in their death is found.
 To Christ with our ran - somed lives we give.
 When grapes are crushed, there flows new wine.
 With grate - ful hearts, our gifts new in hand,
 So from Christ's death flow gifts di - vine.
 Be - fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Tune:
 Tune: Old Hundredth. Meter: 88 88, LM.

Offertory Prayer

You have given us all things, creating God, food and family, laughter and love. You have
 given us more than all things, saving God, your Son, salvation, the promise of
 heaven's open door.

**And still you give us more and more, your protecting presence, your comforting
 counsel. Accept these gifts, for we learned to give from you! Through Jesus
 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting
 Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the
 desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may
 grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels forever praising your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav-en and earth are full of your
 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: Traditional liturgical text. Music: Marty Haugen, Mass of Creation, Copyright: © 1984 GIA Publ. Inc.
 Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Healing Liturgy

Healing Litany

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. As we gather in his name,

look upon us with mercy and bless us with your healing Spirit.

Bring us comfort in the midst of pain, strength to transform our weakness,
and light to illuminate our darkness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion and Anointing for Healing

Jesus said: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Beloved, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

You are invited to approach the healing station anytime during the distribution period. You do not have to wait until after you have received communion.

Please be seated.

Call to Communion

#481 Come to the Table

Communion/Healing Anthem 8:30 *There is A Balm in Gilead* by Cynthia Dobrinski
– Bells Angels

Communion Hymn

#335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his love
and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Here we experience the richness of your giving, O Christ. For at this table you give yourself to us. Having nourished us with this heavenly food, guide us to a true appreciation of your gifts, appreciation that makes itself known in everything we do. You are the Lord forevermore.

Amen.

Sending

Sending of Communion

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless all those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. May all the givers and the receivers be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing for the Lenten Season

The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of the cross, and the guidance of the Spirit in the desert places of our world, be among us. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us both now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fughetta in D minor by Josef Rheinberger
[1839-1901]

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As [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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

Cover: *Persistence of Vision* by Bruce Herman. Copyright © Bruce Herman. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist. www.bruceherman.comReadings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R