



## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Setting 8



### 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.*

### Prayer Requests

*Congregation participation in **bold print**.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING** - The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✙ holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Source of all life,  
**we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.**  
**We fear that we are not good enough.**  
**We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it.**  
**We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.**  
**Forgive us. Stir us.**  
**Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right,**  
**act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.**  
**Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✙ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**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.*

**WORD** - God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.
- <sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**
- <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>**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.**
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- <sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand as you are able.*

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## GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**Deacon Kathy Sebree**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

ELW Hymn 779

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition, the Worship Assistant will say, "Merciful God", the congregation will respond, "receive our prayer."*

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

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.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please take a few moments to greet those around you as you feel comfortable, keeping in mind that not everyone is comfortable shaking hands or hugging.*

**MEAL** - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING SONG

"Come to the Table"

ELW Hymn 481

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together,

God of life,

**You give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOGUE

Preface

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

ELW pg. 190

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 today 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated.*

*We believe that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine. All those who are baptized and have received formal teaching about The Lord's Supper are invited forward to commune. If you desire a blessing, come forward and keep hands folded together. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a clean cup from the right side of the altar. The empty cups can be placed in the tray on the left side of the altar.*

## COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"

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## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW Hymn 815

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

ELW Hymn 768,

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"

ELW Hymn 814

*Please stand as you are able.*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION

"Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant God in Peace"

ELW Pg 135

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,

**in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.**

**Amen.**

**SENDING** - God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Today: Faith, Fitness, & Fellowship, 2:00

Wednesday: "The Way" Mid-Week Lenten Study, 12:00,

Thursday: Social Ministry Meeting, 11:00

Saturday: Scouts Outdoor Cleanup of Church Grounds 9:30

Counters for March: Janet Frank & Lori Murphy

## BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;  
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;  
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

"God, Be the Love to  
Search and Keep Me"

All Creation Sings Hymn 1084

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Kodi (blood infection due to burns), Don and Sandy, Jackie Larson, Linda Uecker, Rita, Laurie Wilson, Jean Koch, Beth Kuhr, Donna, Julie Ann and her twins, Rex and Duke, born prematurely, Char Caprile, Dave, Elisabeth Dunbar, Jim Sebree, and Sue Stewart.

Our mid-week Lenten services will be on the Wednesdays in Lent beginning at noon. We will be watching a short video that will take us on the roads of the Holy Land. We will also have books available to accompany each video. Please join us.



Our Lenten offering will be designated to Ysleta Lutheran Mission, Refugee Care Ministry. This ministry partners with other organizations such as the Rescue Mission of El Paso and the Opportunity Center of El Paso. These organizations are working side by side with other El Paso shelters, helping to relocate these refugees within 48-72 hours. Through our prayers and support, YLM can continue to be a source of encouragement and practical acts of kindness to the displaced who are seeking to find a better future in the United States

Please bring flowers to church on Easter morning to decorate the sanctuary!

Easter Breakfast 8:00

Easter Egg Hunt following services



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*Called by God to Worship, Learn, and Nurture: Sent to Serve and Tell*

Christ Lutheran Church - ELCA

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[www.christlutheranyakima.org](http://www.christlutheranyakima.org) Worship at 9:30 am

Deacon Kathy's Office Hours: Tuesdays—Thursdays 11:00 - 2:00 and by appointment