



A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2026

Pr. Ben Colahan, presiding

PRELUDE

Fanny Power | Turlough O'Carolan | Molly's Favorite Irish Band

Iníon Ni Scannlàn | Donogh Hennessey | Molly's Favorite Irish Band

WELCOME

Pr. Ben Colahan

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 715 | *Christ, Be Our Light* | v. 1-2



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.



Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

GREETING

Pr. Ben Colahan

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) Petitions spoken by the Presiding Minister.

RESP) have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pr. Ben Colahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

ELW 595 | *Jesus Loves Me* | v. 1



I Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 611 | *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* | v. 3



3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) The holy gospel according to John.

RESP) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed 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 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, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ 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?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ 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.” 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 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.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ 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.” 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 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.” ²² 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. 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 they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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 Then 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, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ 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.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

CALL) The gospel of the Lord.
 RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Ben Colahan

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 779 | *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*



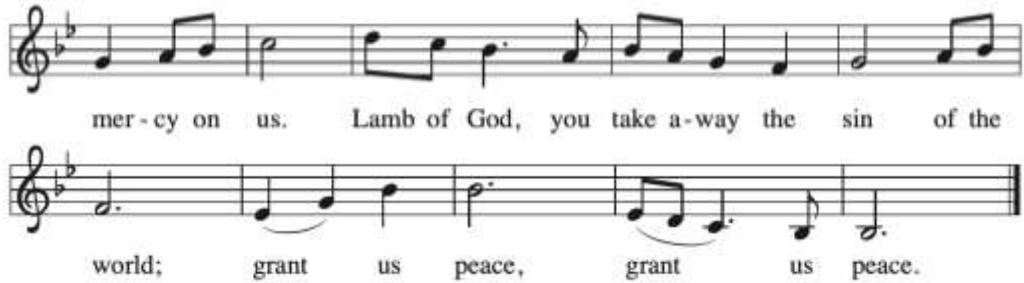
1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say | Molly's Favorite Irish Band

All Ye Refugees | Chelsey Scott, Kellie Haddock, & Flor Paris



If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time, we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the north side of the room/wall facing East 1st Ave.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Beth Bradley

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Pr. Ben Colahan

SENDING SONG

ELW 723 | *Canticle of the Turning* | v. 1-2, 4



- 1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
- 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
- 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
- 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

BLESSING

Pr. Ben Colahan

DISMISSAL

Beth Bradley

CALL) Go in peace. Believe the good news.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Flowers of Edinburgh | Traditional Scottish
 Tune | Molly's Favorite Irish Band



Giving at Faith Lutheran

You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can access our giving page at ChicoFaithLutheran.org/Give. Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, maintenance) or give to any designated fund like the capital campaign or youth and children.

Our service is possible because of today's ministers:

Presiding Minister: Pr. Ben Colahan

Assisting Minister: Beth Bradley

On-Site Council Member: Elise Gladu

On-Site Equipping Minister: Annette Jefferson

Communion: Beth Bradley, Vickie James, Sharon Prindle, Caryl Quiñones (shepherd), and Rev. William Stomski

Communion Clean-up: Suzie Ernest

Ushers: Gail Day and Suzanne Steel

Lector: Karen Avis

Welcome Table: Carol Grandy and Mary Schweder

Coffee Hour: Maureen Hopson and Faye Johnson

A/V Desk: Adelio Havens, Greg Massa, and Kate Ory

Healing Minister: Gen Brink-Capriola

Offering Counters: Vickie James and Diane Knight

Parking Lot: Dave Barnum, Bob Bay, Char Miller, and Jacob Souza

Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team and Molly's Favorite Irish Band

Cantor: Luke Nicolay

TODAY!!!

Class on Christians and Authority: Sundays in Lent at 11am

Our country is in the midst of major disagreement about the role of government authority. What do the scriptures and our Lutheran tradition teach about how followers of Jesus are to wield authority and to respond to those in authority?

Throughout Lent, Pastor Ben will teach a five part class covering such topics as use of force, obedience, resistance, and accountability. This class will be recorded and available online.

Ecumenical Wednesday Evenings in Lent, February 25th - March 25th

5:15-6:15pm: Class on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, 6:15pm - 7pm: Soup supper, 7pm - 8pm: Ecumenical Worship

Learn how God transforms our lives and the world. Start each Wednesday evening in Lent with a class on the traditional spiritual practice for Lent followed by soup supper and worship. Come, meet your neighbors of faith! March 18th -- First Christian, March 25th -- Congregation Beth Israel.

Professional A/V Training with Adam from our Synod, March 21, 10am-4pm

We will have a large training session in which Adam Klopfenstein from a bay area ELCA congregation will help us get to know the ins and outs of our A/V system. If you're interested in learning, brushing up, or checking things out please come and join us. We will take a break from about noon to 1 to have lunch. This training will be a great time to ask questions, practice on the board/cameras/ProPresenter and more. If you have any questions, please contact Luke via email or by calling the church office.

Easter Trunk and Hunt is Back! Saturday, April 4 from 11AM-2PM

...and we would love your help to make it bigger and better than ever! Decorate a car trunk and provide a simple game where kids can earn Easter eggs; donate plastic Easter eggs, filled if possible; help with traffic control; hide eggs; set up or tear down. This event is all about welcoming our community and sharing the joy of Easter. Every role helps make a difference!

This month's goods drive, The Greatest Gift Project, support Special Olympics of Butte County! Throughout the entire month of March, we welcome donations of snack items to support our athletes: 1oz variety bags of chips, Gatorade 12 oz regular or zero (NO RED PLEASE!!!); soft granola bars WITHOUT NUTS; Nature's Bakery fig, blueberry, raspberry, etc.; Nutri-grain bars; Waters.

Easter Caroling on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran children and youth will be "Easter Caroling" on March , Palm Sunday, bringing songs, flowers and joy to our members who can't make it to church anymore. If you would like to participate or contribute bouquets from your garden, we watch for the signup sheet on the bulletin board during the month of March. Please ask Marge Troester if you have any questions.



Thank you to all those who care for our campus...

... Share their gift of music and teaching...

... And nourish our bodies and spirits!



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Class on Christians and Authority, 11:00 a.m. (Pr. Ben)
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Seniors Group, Hallelujah Anyway, 10:30 a.m. Room 7, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month (Dottie Erhardt, Eileen Wayne)
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)
- LGBTQ+ AA Meeting in Room 7 from 6-7 p.m.

Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Griefshare at 2:00 p.m. in Room 7 (Nola D, Stephen K, Peter M)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

Sermon Notes

We see inability, Christ sees possibility

Jesus rejects the idea that physical difference is caused by sin.

In John's gospel, Jesus repeatedly uses the phrase "I am" to point to his divinity. This is a reference to Exodus 3:14, when the only name God gives to Moses is "I AM who I AM," a rejection of reducing God to a label. When his neighbors no longer recognize him, the man born blind says literally in the original Greek, "I am." He is the only person other than Jesus to do so in John.

The term "Son of Man" is a poetic phrase in Hebrew and scripture to refer to a human being. It can also be translated, "The Human One."

Where do you see physical difference being attributed to sin?

When have you struggled to recognize something or someone because they didn't match your expectation?

When has someone looked past your labels to see your humanity?