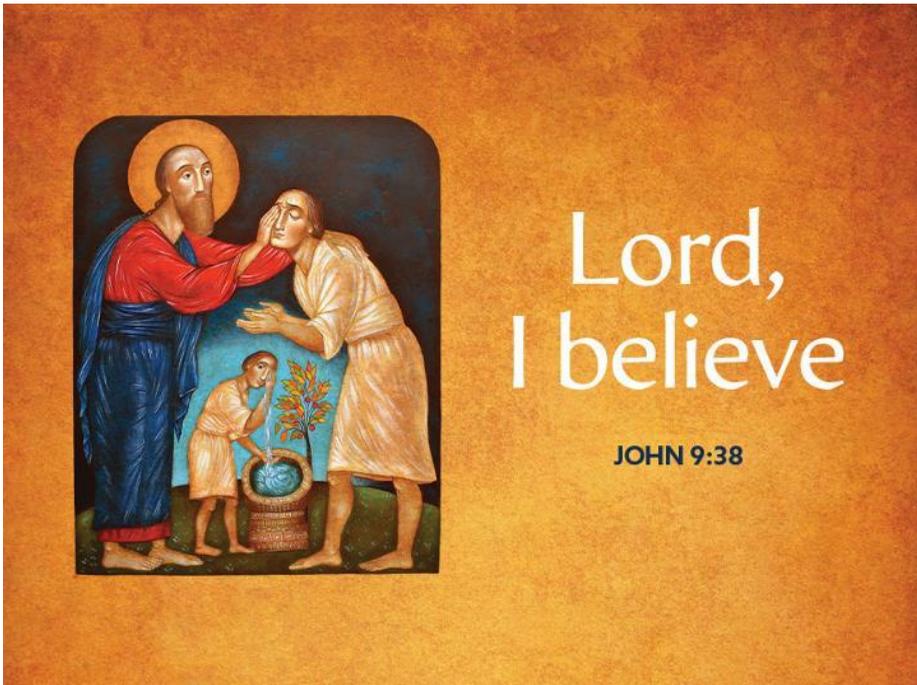




SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026



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, 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

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

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

“10,000 REASONS”

Music and lyrics: Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman
© 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music Ltd; worshiptogether.com songs
Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“MIGHTY TO SAVE”

Music and lyrics: Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan
© 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
Administrators Hillsong Music Publishing USA

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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL

JOHN 9: 1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John. **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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

WHO IS REALLY BLIND?

PASTOR DAVID YOUNG

1. We are often tempted to look for blame amidst struggle instead of God’s work. In the Gospel story, the disciples immediately ask who sinned to cause the man’s blindness. When difficult things happen in our lives or in the lives of others, how do we tend to respond? How might Jesus’ response challenge the way we think about suffering?
2. The Pharisees had the knowledge of Scripture but still failed to recognize Jesus. What attitudes or assumptions might prevent people today from seeing what God is doing? How can pride or certainty sometimes keep us from hearing God’s truth?
3. The healed man’s testimony was simple: “I was blind, but now I see.” What changes have you experienced in your life because of faith in Christ? How might your own story be a witness to others?

HYMN OF THE DAY

“AMAZING GRACE/MY CHAINS ARE GONE”

Music and lyrics: Chris Tomlin, John Newton and Louie Giglio
© 2006 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs
Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Concluding petition: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION- PEOPLE NEED THE LORD - Choir/Band

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the feast to come, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for your fidelity to the Hebrew people.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed and promised one.

Praise to you for his death, resurrection, and ascension.

Praise to you for your Spirit which weaves mysteriously through the fabric of life.

In the night in which he was arrested, 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.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free wafer** and a cup of **grape juice is also available.**

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"MY JESUS I LOVE THEE"

Music and Lyrics: Adoniram Judson Gordon, William Ralph Featherstone
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COMMUNION BLESSING

Let us pray ... Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

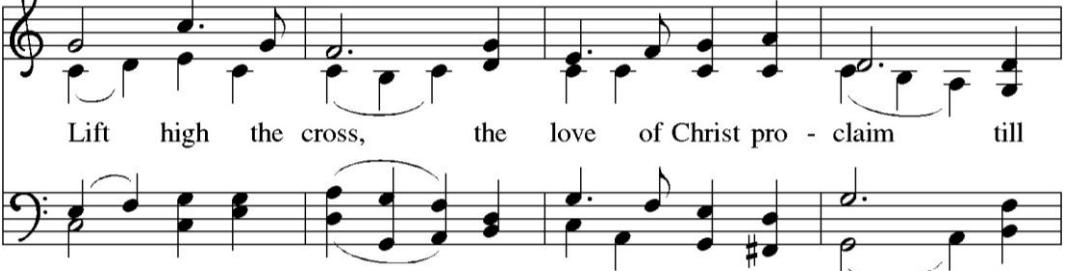
BENEDICTION

May the God of fidelity and grace grant you harmony with one another.
May the Lord of life inspire you to seek justice and joy.
May the power of the Holy Spirit abide in you forever. **Amen**

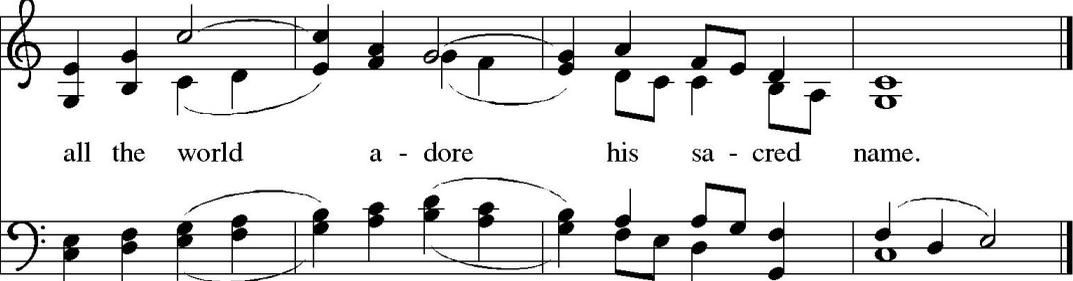
SENDING SONG

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS (ELW #660)

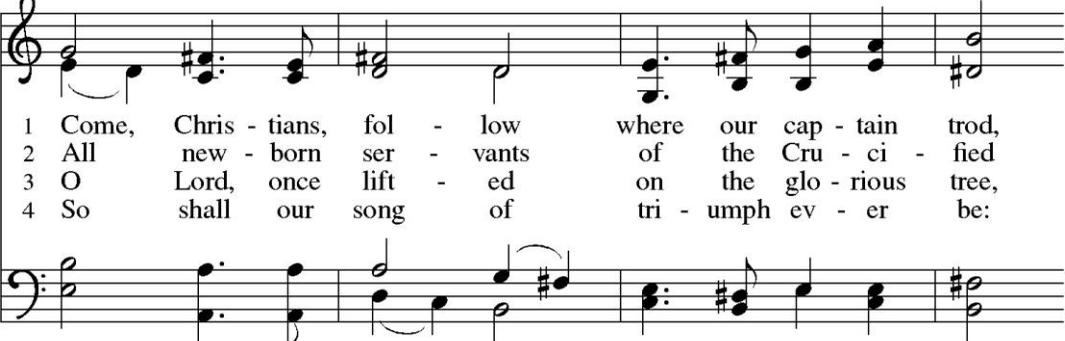
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

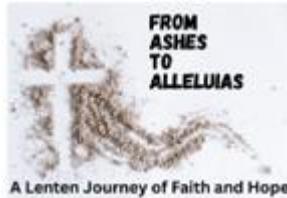
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES
Walking Wet;

Living Our Baptism from Ashes to Alleluias

We don't graduate from baptism. We walk wet each day; claimed by grace, cleaned in water, changed by God's promises, and called to serve God and each other.

Wednesday, March 18

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Changed"

Wednesday, March 25

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Called"



LUTHERAN CHURCH

2077 N. Frederick Pike
Winchester, VA 22603

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via Facebook, YouTube or
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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29TH
9:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2ND
7pm

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3RD
Noon and 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5TH
9:30am

BETHEL STAFF & COUNCIL

Rev. Dr. David N. Young, Pastor	pastordave@bethelwinchester.com
Kristal Cutler, Director of Music	music@bethelwinchester.com
Edie Donovan, Parish Nurse	emcgoff@gmail.com
George W. Donovan, Sr., Director of Safety and Security	security@bethelwinchester.com
Shawn Garner, Facility Management	facility@bethelwinchester.com
Financial or Giving Questions	office@bethelwinchester.com
Matt Meade & Lexy Grymala Nursery Managers	office@bethelwinchester.com
Mel Siebert, Youth Ministry	youth@bethelwinchester.com
Nina Davis, Office Manager	office@bethelwinchester.com
Patty White, Parish Custodian	annwhite54@aol.com

Council Executive Committee

JENNIFER LAFOLLETTE, PRESIDENT, TEXT/CALL 540-533-9142, EMAIL jnanlafollette@gmail.com

CHERIE LAUCK, VICE-PRESIDENT & MINISTRY TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-336-0300, EMAIL cherie.lauck@bethelwinchester.com

MATT LYMAN, SECRETARY & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-550-0710, EMAIL matt.lyman@bethelwinchester.com

LYNDA GRYMALA, TREASURER & FINANCE TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-222-9408, EMAIL lynda.grymala@bethelwinchester.com

DAVID YOUNG, PASTOR

COUNCIL GENERAL MEMBERS

MEL SIEBERT, EMAIL MEL.SIEBERT@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

LEEANNE MARPLE EMAIL LEEANNE.MARPLE@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

RENE HOLLEBRANDSE, MINISTRY TEAM EMAIL C.J.HOLLEBRANDSE@GMAIL.COM

SHARI FLETCHER EMAIL: SHARI.FLETCHER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

ROB CUTLER EMAIL: ROB.CUTLER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2077 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603, 540-662-3245

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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