

**Sunday, March 15th, 2026**  
Fourth Sunday in Lent (Violet or Rose)

**First Reading**

A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL (16:1-13)

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." 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.' 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." 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?" 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. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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.

**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.  
He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his 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 spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## **Second Reading**

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS (5:8-14)

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

## **Gospel**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN (9:1-41)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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." 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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 be-come his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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## Hymns

Open : CP 520 **The King of Love My Shepherd** Is v1,2,4,5,6,

Tune: Dominus Regit Me - J.B.Dykes

Text: Ps. 23 para.H. Williams (P.D)

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His.  
And He is mine forever.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy Cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd! may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And O, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

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Tract: **Open the Eyes of My Heart**

P. Baloché © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Leadworship Songs

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Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You ( Repeat )

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

-----gospel ---

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
I want to see You ( Repeat )

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Offertory : CP 612 **Healer of Our every** Ill v1,2,3  
Words & Music: M. Haugen (c) 1987 GIA Publications  
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Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,  
Grace us with your peace and gladness,  
Spirit of all comfort: fill our heart.

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

In the pain and joy beholding,  
How your grace is still unfolding,  
Give us all your vision: God of love.

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

Give us strength to love each other,  
Ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother,  
Spirit of all kindness: be our guide.

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

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Close : CP 599 **Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night**

Tune: Church Triumphant Text: J.R. Peacey (c) 1991 Hope Publishing Co.

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Awake! Awake! Fling off the night,  
for God has sent a glorious light,  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away

Awake and sing, with praises strong  
in psalm and hymn and spirit-song.  
Let love our words and works renew  
with all that's good and right and true.

Let in the light; all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before the cross expectant kneel,  
that Christ may judge, and judging, heal.

Then rise as children of the light.  
Be neither proud, nor hide from sight.  
Be careful how you live, and wise  
to sift the truth from cunning lies.

Through Christ give thanks to God, and say  
to other sleepers on the way:  
"Awake, and rise up from the dead  
that Christ may shine on you instead!"