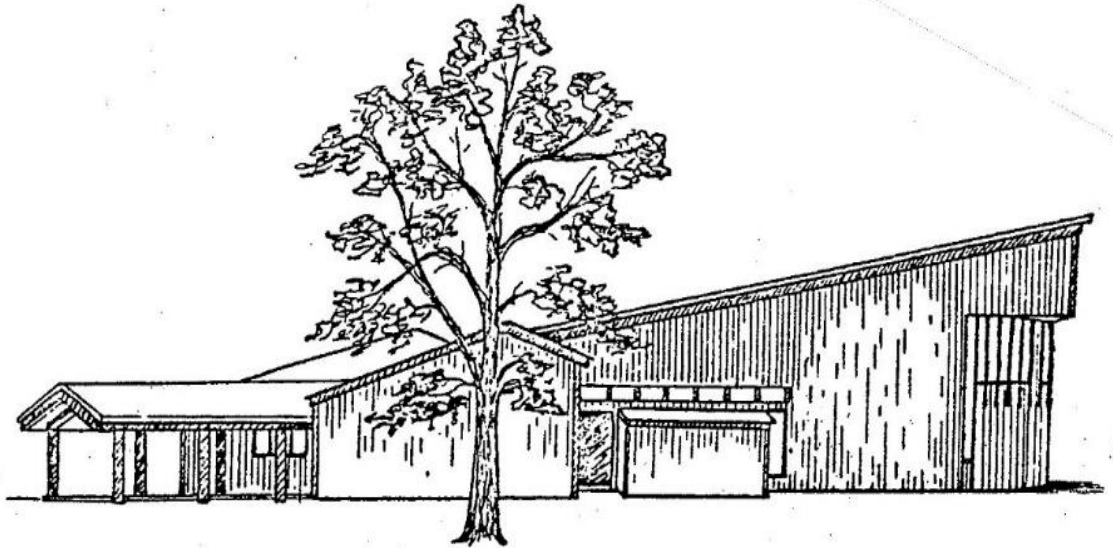


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

GROWING IN FAITH TOWARD GOD
AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 19TH, 2023

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A member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Welcome!

A warm welcome is extended to ALL who are gathered today. May we all know the love and mercy of God through His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Please fill out a "Friendship Registry" card or sign your name in our "Guest Book" that is located in the entry way of our building. **If you are 'visiting' with us today, please make sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Krueger.** As our 'special guest,' please do not feel obligated to contribute to today's offering.

Rest rooms are located off the hallway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The nursery is located through the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to use our nursery, please ask an usher who will help you immediately. Hearing assistance devices are available. If you need anything, please ask an elder or an usher – both are happy to help you.

THE LORD'S SUPPER – We rejoice in this blessed meal as the Lord Jesus Himself comes to us in a very intimate manner, giving us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. St. Paul writes, "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:28-29)

It is out of love and care for every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we specifically ask those who are not instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and/or doubt the 'REAL presence' of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper. As a member church of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, we practice "Close(d) Communion" and welcome to our communion rail those who are members of churches that belong to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

PRESERVICE MUSIC – *please use this time to prepare yourself for worship.*

OPENING SONG – TOSB 241 "To God Be the Glory"

- 1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son.
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, thro' Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.***

**2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain ...***

**3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain ...***

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Lord Jesus, we come before You in humble confession.

Help us conform our lives to You as the model for holy and righteous living.

Forgive us for the times we seek to make personal greatness our priority,
for our attempts to make gods of ourselves, for our willingness to exalt ourselves at the expense of others, and for our hesitance and resistance to lovingly serve others as You lovingly serve us.

Forgive us for making light of Your obedience and sacrifice on the cross by living an undisciplined and indifferent view of Christian witness;

forgive us for yielding to personal discomfort and fear rather than relying on Your strength to take the risks of discipleship.

Forgive us, Jesus, for the times we have not looked to you first as our Lord,
and for allowing the clamoring distractions of the world to become higher priorities than You.

Forgive us for yielding more to the temptations of this world than being transformed by Your lordship over our lives.

May the Holy Spirit empower us to accept the grace that our Lord and Savior, Jesus, offers to us today.

(silence is observed for personal confession of sins to God our Father)

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,

since as members of one body, we were called to peace. And let us be thankful.

Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and with His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14-21*

For a long time I have held My peace; I have kept still and restrained Myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but My servant, or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as My dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for His righteousness' sake, to magnify His law and make it glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING *Ephesians 5:8-14*

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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." Having said these things, He spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped Him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED (inside back cover of the hymnal)

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

MESSAGE SONG – BOB 115 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

CHORUS

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

**Clear Sun of Righteousness,
shine on my path,**

and show me the way to the

Father. *Chorus ...*

**3. I'm looking for the coming of
Christ. I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run with
patience the race,**

we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Chorus ...

SERMON:

"The Blind Man: The Difference Between Good and Bad Theology"

Sermon Text: John 9:1-41

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Pastor ends each petition, "Lord, in Your mercy."

Worshippers respond, "Hear our prayer."

Lord, remember in 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 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.

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Silence is observed as the communion vessels are prepared, and for us to prepare to receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#1 LSB 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

#2 BOB 139 "Lamb of God"

1. Your only Son no sin to hide,
but You have sent Him from Your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God.

CHORUS

*Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

2. Your gift of love they crucified,
they laughed and scorned Him as He died,
the humble King they named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Chorus ...*

3. I was so lost I should have died,
but You have brought me to Your side
to be led by Your staff and rod,
and to be called a lamb of God. *Chorus ...*

#3 LSB 744 "Amazing Grace"

#4 TOSB 227 "Just a closer walk with Thee"

Chorus

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
grant it, Jesus, if You please;
daily walking close to Thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

1. I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee. *Chorus ...*

2. Thru this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. *Chorus ...*

3. When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more; on that bright eternal shore
I will walk, dear Lord, close to Thee. *Chorus ...*

WORDS OF DISMISSAL

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG: AGPS 237 "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

Refrain ...

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. Refrain ...**

**3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. Refrain ...**

**4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. Refrain ...**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Go in Peace...

Thanks Be to God.

Serving March 19th

Elder: Dan Everson

Pianist: Lois Zill

Altar: Lisa Charlesworth

Reader: Aaron Mullins

Nursery: Rosie Wolbrink

Ushers: Bob Charlesworth, Roger Hoheneder, and Jesse Sebero

Serving March 26th

Elder: Jeff Durocher

Organist: Marilyn Theel

Altar: Sandy Lesperance

Reader: John Nygren

Nursery: Roxanne Muller

Ushers: Dennis Froehlich, Roy Gill and Keith Mueller