

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

9:30 am

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.

PRELUDE

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" by Charles Callahan

PREPARATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made to remember baptism. Silence is kept for reflection.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. / **C) Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess. / *Sit or kneel if able. Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God...

.../ C) have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. / **C) Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW #502 / The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs 1, 2, 4 and maybe 6)

PRAISE

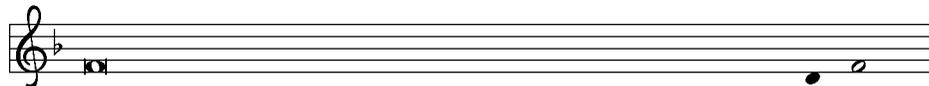
GREETING

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

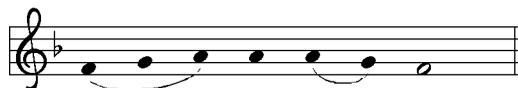
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



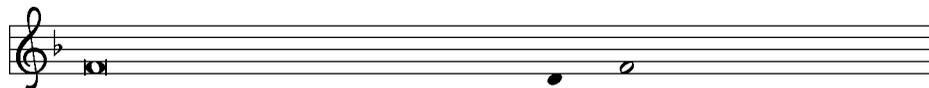
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



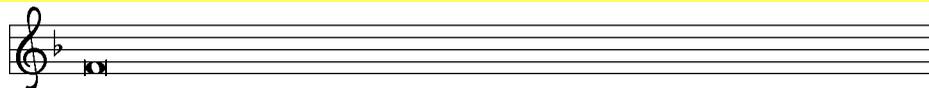
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



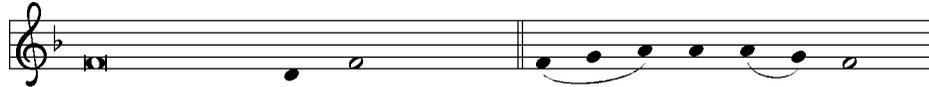
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



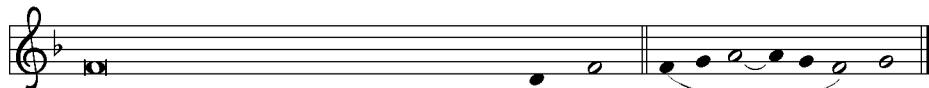
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. / **C) And also with you.**

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. / **C) Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

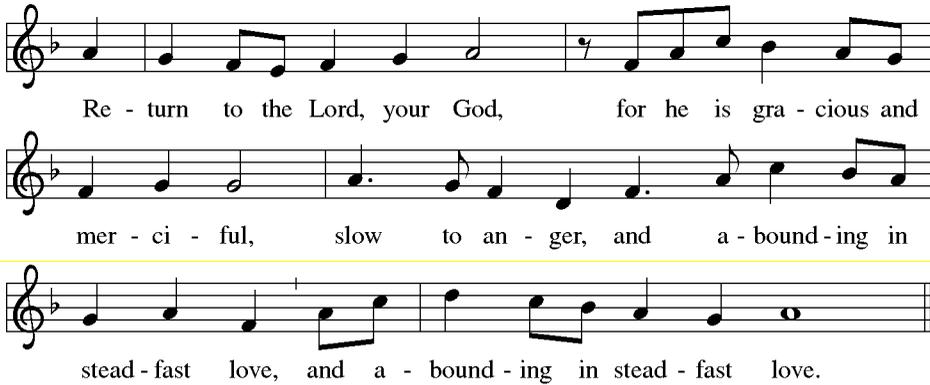
Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD

Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

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

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter. / **C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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.”

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

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

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus 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... / **C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

SERMON

Pr. Wade Apel

THE MISSION

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. / *Kneel if able or sit. A brief silence.*

Each petition will end with ... Hear us, O God. / **C) ... Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. / **C) Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

/ C) 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.

BENEDICTION

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **/ C) Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #536 / God Be with You Till We Meet Again

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **/ C) Following Christ, Sharing Hope, Loving All. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Amazing Grace by Robert Powell

Happening (Virtually) at Servants of Christ This Week

Link to Join a Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/8711010069>

Sunday - 9:30 - Worship Live Stream, Replay will appear about an hour after the live stream

Monday - 10am - Open Office Hour with Pastor Wade (via Zoom)

6:30pm Care Team Meeting (via Zoom)

Tuesday - 10:00-11:00 Open Office Hour with Pastor Wade (via Zoom)

Wednesday - Noon - Midweek Worship - Live Stream @ Noon, Replay on YouTube

Thursday - 10AM - Deeper in the Word (Via Zoom)

SERVANTS OF CHRIST IN OUR PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

- **Becky Holst**, recovering from surgery
- **Susie Brown**, Olesya Savinkova’s friend, who has been hospitalized
- **Bob Oren**, who is recovering from surgery
- **Pat Bueltmann**, who is recovering from surgery
- **Sidney Grove**, who is having health concerns
- **Michael Staudinger**, nephew of the Carrons, experiencing health problems.
- **Nick Walton**, Dave & Jackie Wright’s grandson for help dealing with tough issues
- **Karla Janning**, friend of Marla Thombleson, awaiting surgery and serious health concerns
- **Faith Stern**, George Bueltmann’s sister, who is facing difficulties
- **Hal Lucas**, family member of Do Stoltenberg, who has entered hospice
- **Matt Heck**, Do Stoltenberg’s friend, who has health and life concerns
- **Carolyn Werner**, Joan Cohron’s niece, who has serious health concerns
- **Kathleen (KC) Dieck**, Pat & George Bueltmann’s sister, who has major health concerns
- **Charlotte Bueltmann**, sister-in-law to George & Pat, who is recovering from surgery
- **Lois Hammitt**, Jana Stoltenberg’s friend, who is having serious health concerns.
- **Carol Heck**, Do Stoltenberg’s friend, who is having health concerns
- **Mary Kingman**, Dave & Jackie Wright’s friend, who has a serious illness
- **Mike Dooley**, who is recovering in rehab after surgery
- **Emily Shalinsky**, friend of the Carrons, experiencing serious health problems
- **Mary Lu Williams**, Deb Jones’ friend, who has health concerns
- **Donna Lewis**, who has health concerns
- **Linda Hoss**, friend of the Gillespie and Allen families, for comfort and peace for her health issues
- **Sally Miksch**, George & Pat Bueltmann’s daughter, who is undergoing treatment
- **Chris Thiel**, sister-in-law to Wolfreds, daughter-in-law to the Thiels, who has health concerns
- **Harry Thiel**, brother of Bob Thiel, who passed away.

Receiving Cancer Treatment

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Ellsworth, Bueltmann’s friend • Kim Geisinger, friend of Bruce and Lori Allen • Dora Trittipio, friend of Lori Allen • Terry Conrad, Deb Jones’ cousin • Karen Schlosser, Bill & Jana’s friend • Theresa Trout, Abby Vesga’s friend • Terri, Do Stoltenberg’s friend • Sharon Comer, Ted Prange’s friend • Jim Beshears, Betty Oren’s brother • Chad Handley, Shirley Holmes’ friend • Mike Fox, Vivian Matthews nephew • Karen Naber, Ted Prange’s friend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rush Limbaugh • Joe Gehris II, Barb Gehris’ son • Klaus Wenger, Cindy Stone’s friend • Joe, Bess Godard’s friend • Mike Creaney, Pat Bueltmann’s brother • Bruce Martin, Deb Jones’ friend • Connie Zusan, Bonnie Anderson’s cousin • Janet, friend of Bill & Jana Stoltenberg • Kim Parker, Deb Jones’ friend • David Daniels, Lauren Daniels’ father-in-law • Matt Price, friend of Shirley Holmes |
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PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Marco Alejos	Abigail Bueltmann	August Bueltmann	Rachel Dirks
Kalin Effinger	Garrett Shaw	Joshua Goodsman	Ronnie Pierson
Zach Swingle	Tim Thombleson	Parker Ward	Zachary Williams