

March 19, 2023
Third Sunday In Lent



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

**Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
was blind but now I see**

**'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed**

**My Chains Are Gone I've been set free
My God my savior Has ransomed me
And like A flood his mercy rains
unending love Amazing Grace**

**The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures**

**My Chains Are Gone I've been set free
My God my savior Has ransomed me
And like A flood his mercy rains
unending love Amazing Grace**

**My Chains Are Gone I've been set free
My God my savior Has ransomed me
And like A flood his mercy rains
unending love Amazing Grace**

**The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
the sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
will be forever mine**

**My Chains Are Gone I've been set free
My God my savior Has ransomed me
And like A flood his mercy rains
unending love Amazing Grace**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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 said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**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.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

GOSPEL: John 9:35-41

The holy gospel according John. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven [out the man whom he had given sight], 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Please stand

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics: 'Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;'. The second system contains the lyrics: 'set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ. Offering baskets can be found in the back pews.

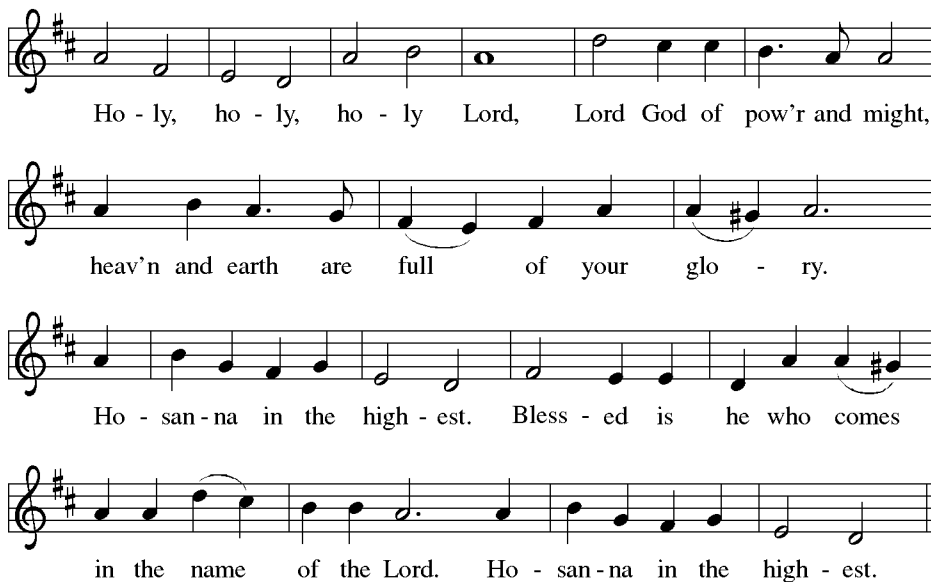
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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 paschal feast, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

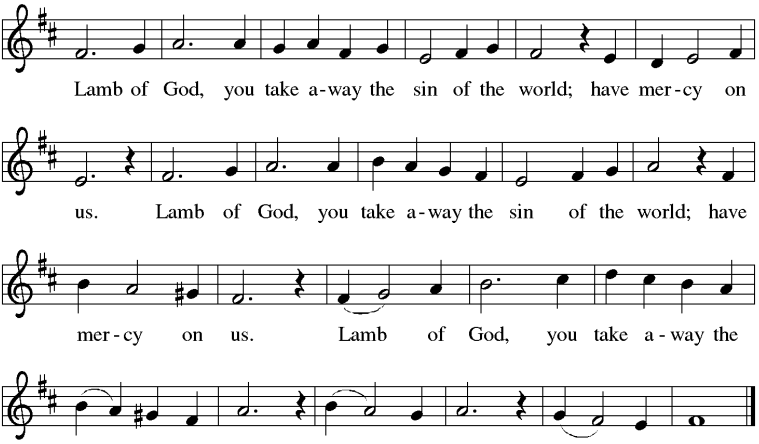
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please sit

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will come after to receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING FOR THE CORTI FAMILY

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING HYMN – Jesus Loves Me!

**Jesus loves me! this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong
they are weak but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! he who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He will wash away my sin
Let his little child come in.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! this I'll shout
Tell the world, his love rings out.
Clap your hands and make some noise!
Jesus loves all girls and boys.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.
Jesus Loves Me, This I Know**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.
Thanks be to God!

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"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"

"Jesus Loves Me"



Midweek Lenten Soup and Prayer

6:00 pm Soup Supper (Wednesdays) - A light meal with soup by you! Please see the Signup Sheet in the Church Lobby/Narthex if you can offer a soup.

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer - A sung service of prayer during the middle of the week to center ourselves in God's word.

Bible Study: "Tech for Humans"

What effects has technology had on your life? From air conditioning to smartphones to live-streaming worship, our lives are filled with technology that no biblical author ever knew. Some of the ways we use technology have been good for us, and some of the ways have been bad, but technology is **never neutral.**

The study will explore the ways technology shapes us while looking to the Bible for guidance. Instead of being a live study, each week the pastor's presentation will be available for you to watch on your own time, and you will be invited to respond to the presentation and to one another online. (That's right, we're using a different technology ... let's see how it shapes us.)

The videos will be made available each Wednesday morning in Lent beginning the week after Ash Wednesday and can be seen on Facebook or on Good Shepherd's website.



WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

WELCA is starting a new monthly in-person Bible Study beginning tomorrow, Monday, March 20, 2023 at 11:00 am. The Bible Study will be held in the Church Library.

Our Stewardship For the month ending February 2023

	Church	Little Lambs
Needed monthly	\$ 28,514.45	\$ 51,864.17
Monthly Expenses	\$ 25,021.78	\$ 46,058.20
Expenses YTD	52,033.16	94,981.58
Giving/Income for the month	\$ 22,736.18	\$ 54,781.93
Giving/Income YTD	\$ 36,052.89	\$ 114,922.76
Estimated Cost for Roof and Renovations		\$ 150,000.00
Total Paid Out for Roof and Renovations so far		\$ 119,494.00
Contributions towards Roof and Renovations		\$ 18,810.43