

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Mankato, Minnesota**

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023**

***At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.***

**Monthly Memory Verse:**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
Psalm 51:1

**Weekly Discussion Question:**

The psalmist asks God to remove any sign of his rebellion against God.  
What things might we want erased?

**Confession and Absolution**

**Opening Hymn: “O Son of God, in Galilee”**

**LSB 841**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 O Son of God, in Galilee<br>You made the deaf to hear,<br>The mute to speak, the blind to see;<br>O blessèd Lord, be near.          | 4 Meanwhile to them the list'ning ear<br>Of steadfast faith impart,<br>And let Your Word bring light and<br>cheer<br>To ev'ry troubled heart. |
| 2 O listen to the silent prayer<br>Of Your afflicted ones.<br>O bid them cast on You their care;<br>Your grace to them make known.    | 5 Then in Your promised happy land<br>Each loss will prove a gain;<br>All myst'ries we shall understand,<br>For You will make them plain.     |
| 3 The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear<br>You can restore, O Lord;<br>Your “Ephphatha,” O Savior dear,<br>Can instant help afford. |   |

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**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

## Absolution

*LSB 151*

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
  
- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>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.  
<sup>15</sup>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.  
<sup>16</sup>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.  
<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”  
<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!  
<sup>19</sup>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?  
<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.  
<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 142*

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.  
<sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me,  
you know my way!

In the path where I walk  
they have hidden a trap for me.  
<sup>4</sup>Look to the right and see:  
there is none who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me;  
no one cares for my soul.  
<sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O LORD;  
I say, “You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living.”  
<sup>6</sup>Attend to my cry,  
for I am brought very low!  
Deliver me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me!  
<sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison,  
that I may give thanks to your name!  
The righteous will surround me,  
for you will deal bountifully with me.

## Gloria Patri

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**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem: “You Are My Own”

Vocal Choir

## Holy Gospel

*John 9:1–41*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.”

<sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>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?” <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could

do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn of the Day: “Arise and Shine in Splendor

LSB 396

- 1 Arise and shine in splendor;  
Let night to day surrender.  
Your light is drawing near.  
Above, the day is beaming,  
In matchless beauty gleaming;  
The glory of the Lord is here.
- 2 See earth in darkness lying,  
The heathen nations dying  
In hopeless gloom and night.  
To you the Lord of heaven—  
Your life, your hope—has given  
Great glory, honor, and delight.
- 3 The world’s remotest races,  
Upon whose weary faces  
The sun looks from the sky,  
Shall run with zeal untiring,  
With joy Your light desiring  
That breaks upon them from on high.
- 4 Lift up your eyes in wonder—  
See, nations gather yonder  
From sin to be set free.  
The world has heard Your story;  
Her sons come to Your glory;  
Her daughters haste Your light to see.

5 Your heart will leap for gladness  
When from the realms of sadness  
They come from near and far.  
Your eyes will wake from slumber  
As people without number  
Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt.  
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## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

#### Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 161*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:



## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Pax Domini

*LSB 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymns:

### “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

**LSB 411**

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. Refrain

ref 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. Refrain

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. Refrain

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

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## “Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

- 1   Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
      That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
      Was blind but now I see!
- 2   The Lord has promised good to me,  
      His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
      As long as life endures.
- 3   Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
      I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
      His grace will lead me home.
- 4   Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
      And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
      In heaven’s joy and peace.
- 5   When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
      Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
      Than when we’d first begun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond  
Text: Public domain

## “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

LSB 697

- 1   Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
      And Christ shall give you light;  
So learn His love, its length and breadth,  
      Its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2   To us on earth He came to bring  
      From sin and fear release,  
To give the Spirit’s unity,  
      The very bond of peace.
- 3   Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
      Who died that He might save;  
With kind and gentle hearts forgive  
      As God in Christ forgave.

4 For us Christ lived, for us He died,  
And conquered in the strife;  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
And Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

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## Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 165*

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of  
ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to  
come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true  
faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may,  
together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His  
kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise"

**LSB 798**

1	The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days And God of love. Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.	2	The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand. I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame, and pow'r, And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.
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- 3 The God of Abr’ham praise,  
Whose all-sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days  
In all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend;  
He calls Himself my God.  
And He shall save me to the end  
Through Jesus’ blood.
- 4 He by Himself has sworn;  
I on His oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,  
To heav’n ascend.  
I shall behold His face;  
I shall His pow’r adore  
And sing the wonders of His grace  
Forevermore.
- 5 Though nature’s strength decay,  
And earth and hell withstand,  
To Canaan’s bounds I urge my way  
At His command.  
The wat’ry deep I pass,  
With Jesus in my view,  
And through the howling wilderness  
My way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see,  
With peace and plenty blest:  
A land of sacred liberty  
And endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
And oil and wine abound,  
And trees of life forever grow  
With mercy crowned.
- 7 There dwells the Lord our king,  
The Lord our righteousness,  
Triumphant o’er the world and sin,  
The Prince of Peace.  
On Zion’s sacred height  
His kingdom He maintains  
And glorious with His saints in light  
Forever reigns.
- 8 The God who reigns on high  
The great archangels sing,  
And “Holy, holy, holy!” cry,  
“Almighty King!  
Who was and is the same  
And evermore shall be:  
Jehovah, Father, great I AM!  
We worship Thee!”
- △ 9 The whole triumphant host  
Give thanks to God on high.  
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost!”  
They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr’ham’s God and mine!  
I join the heav’nly lays:  
All might and majesty are Thine  
And endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt.  
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