

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Saturday, March 18, 2023 ~ 6:00 pm**



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.

## **ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)

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*Pastor Teri Sutherlin (620-521-6454) ~ John Dumler, PMA (785-483-1382)*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**LITURGY FOR FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A**

**PRELUDE**

**COMING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY**

*Please stand as you are able*

**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 us! God embraces us with divine mercy, ✠ forgives us in Christ's name, and revives us in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

## THE 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.**

**GATHERING HYMN** .....“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”; Verses 1 & 2; ELW 452



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;

3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.

one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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## THE PRAYER OF THE EVENING

The Lord be with you. **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. Amen.**

*Congregation may be seated*

## THE SHARING IN THE WORD

### FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>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." <sup>2</sup>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.'" <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### A READING FROM PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

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

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

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

**SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** ..... “Restore in Us, O God”; Verse 1; ELW 328

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -  
new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933  
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## THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

The Holy Gospel according to John 9:1-41

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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>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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The 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?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>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." <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>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." <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<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 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." <sup>22</sup>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. <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 they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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>Then 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, "Here is an astonishing 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 he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person 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 entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

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

*Congregation may be seated*

**HYMN OF THE EVENING** .....“O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”; Verses 1 & 2; ELW 722



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007  
 Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833  
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*Please stand as you are able*

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

With our faith in Jesus Christ, let all the people of God confess their faith of the church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** *(repeat response after each petition)*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember 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 SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

Congregation members may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace as you are comfortable doing so, saying, "Peace be with you", or similar words.

## THE OFFERTORY....."We Give Thee but Thine Own"; Verse 1; LBW 410



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

## THE OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

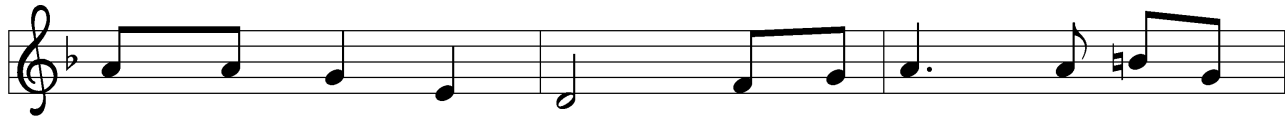
## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** ..... "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"; Verses General & Lent 4; ELW 344



General Light of life be - yond con - ceiv - ing, might - y  
Lent 4 Give us eyes to see you clear - ly; make us



Spir - it of our Lord; give new strength to our be -  
chil - dren of your light. Give us hearts to live more



liev - ing, give us faith to live your word, give us  
near - ly as your gos - pel shin - ing bright, as your



faith to live your word.  
gos - pel shin - ing bright.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
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**BLESSING AND SENDING**

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless us in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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## CALENDAR

**Sun, Mar 19**..... Care Center Worship (2:00 pm)

**Mon, Mar 20** ..... Pastor Teri - day of rest and renewal  
..... Prayer Shawl Ministry (10:00 am)

**Tues, Mar 21** ..... Quilting Ministry (1:30 pm)  
..... Pastor Teri - Record Clergy Comments for March 22, 2023

**Wed, Mar 22** ..... KRSL Clergy Comments (7:30 am)  
..... RCOAC Lenten Luncheon; St. Mary Queen of Angels (noon)  
..... Lenten Reflection led by 425 Youth; Chapel (6:00 pm)  
..... St. John Ringers (6:30 pm)  
..... Agape Choir (7:30 pm)

**Thurs, Mar 23**.... Bible Study with Pastor Teri (1:00 pm)

**Thurs and Fri, Mar 23 and 24:** Second Baptist Spring Revival (7:00 pm)

**Fri, Mar 24**..... Pastor Teri - sermon writing day

**Sat, Mar 25**..... Worship in Chapel; Holy Communion (6:00 pm)

**Sun, Mar 26**..... *Blessing and Dedication of Fair Linens in honor of Mary Ulrich*  
..... Worship in Sanctuary (8:15 am)  
..... *First Communion Class #2 - bring your books!* (9:15 am)  
..... Sunday School and Confirmation (9:15 am)  
..... Worship in Sanctuary; St. John Ringers, KRSL broadcast (10:30 am)

## ADDITIONS TO THE PRAYER LIST

- Jim & Jaci Feil
- Dick McCrary
- Mark Mai

## OUR SYMPATHIES AND GOD'S COMFORT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

- Marceline Bender
- Everett Schrant
- Rocky Yoder - Memorial Service April 21, 2023, 10:30 am

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRECTIONS**

Wheatland Nursing Center (320 S. Lincoln, Russell) invites children of all ages to an Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 25. Additional information can be found in the March newsletter.

Easter Lily donations and Candle sponsorships may be presented in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to the glory of God.

- Forms are available on the main bulletin board, in the office, or at stjohnrussell.com.
- To be included in the Easter weekend bulletins, completed forms must be returned to the church office no later than Monday, April 3.
- Donated lilies may be delivered or brought to St. John no earlier than Friday, April 7. Lilies may be picked up beginning Monday, April 10. Lilies remaining after April 14 will be discarded.
- A limited number of candle sponsorships are offered on a first come, first served basis. Each sponsorship is \$20 and may be paid in the church office.

On Sunday, April 16, Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort, Hays) will host a German Service starting at 2:00 pm. Pastor Delvin Strecker will lead the service in German and welcomes everyone to attend.

## **LENTEN / EASTER SEASON**

- The Russell County Association of Churches Lenten Luncheons (noon to 1:00 pm)
  - Wednesday, March 22: St. Mary Queen of Angels
  - Wednesday, March 29: Emmanuel Lutheran (Milberger)
  - Wednesday, April 5: First Congregational Church (ALL are welcome)
- Lenten Meditations - Wednesdays through March 29, 6:00 pm (Chapel)
- The Lenten Food Pantry Challenge continues! Donations may be placed in the donation box outside the office door, or on the shelves above the coat racks in the hall. One or more volunteers will be needed to sort and deliver items no later than Wednesday, April 5.
- Palm Sunday Weekend
  - Palm Sunday Worship; Holy Communion - 6:00 pm, Saturday, April 1 (Chapel)
  - Palm Sunday Worship; Holy Communion - 8:15 am, Sunday, April 2
  - Palm Sunday Worship; Holy Communion, Donkey Parade - 10:30 am, Sunday, April 2
- Maundy Thursday Worship; Holy Communion, St. John Ringers; Agape Choir - 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 6
- Good Friday Worship; Agape Choir - 7:00 pm, Friday, April 7
- Easter Vigil Worship; Holy Communion - 6:00 pm, Saturday, April 8 (Chapel)
- Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 9
  - Sunrise Service (7:00 am)
  - 425 Youth Easter Breakfast (immediately following Sunrise Service)
  - Sunday School activities (9:15 am)
  - Easter Service (10:30 am)