

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

I See

March 29 & 30, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

More often than not, we like to place our trust in things that we see with our own eyes: the balance in our savings account, the report of our last physical from the doctor, the family and friends in our lives. But if this is where we focus our hope, we are acting spiritually blind. As today's Old Testament reading reminds, our ultimate trust and love is placed in One we cannot see. With God-given eyes of faith, we look to the suffering servant, Jesus Christ, who took on our guilt and blindness at the cross so that we have freedom and sight.

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! *LSB 744:1*

WELCOME

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10*

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "you are my refuge,

People: my portion in the land of the living."

Pastor: Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

People: Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

LENTEN LITANY

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Lord God, by nature we are sinful and spiritually blind. In our darkness, we have staggered about, placing our love and trust in false gods that we can see with our physical eyes: false gods such as money, family, and our own selves. Forgive us for not seeking you above all, and grant us eyes of faith to find forgiveness in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We humbly ask that for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." 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 the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your Son gave sight to a man blind from birth. Through the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grant sight to us, who are by nature spiritually blind by sin, that we may walk as children of light; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

“For along time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the Lord? You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing.” It pleased the Lord for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:8–14*

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

5:00 ANTHEM

“Jesus, What A Beautiful Name”

Choir

(Rise)

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

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided. Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked, “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

“With Eyes of Faith, Now See”

(Tune #424 O Christ, You Walked the Road)

With eyes of faith, now see The One who gave you sight.
From sinful darkness turn and flee; Look to the Lord of light.

Be opened, servant ear; Attend your Savior’s voice.
O faithful children, turn to hear; Then, gratefully rejoice!

The mountains will give way And melt with thund’rous sound.
The dismal night will turn to day; Bright glory will abound.

O Spirit, sanctify. O Son, our hearts restore.
O Father, come and glorify Your kingdom evermore!

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SERMON

“Seeing and Living in the Light”

Ephesians 5:8-14

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: God’s Word declares that once we were in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. As people of God, called out of the darkness of our sins into the light of Christ in Holy Baptism, let us pray for ourselves, for the Church of God and for everyone in need.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God”

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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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith’s bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

HYMN #629 “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die
Under the rod? My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me? O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole
Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive
His very body and His blood. O taste and see the Lord is good.

HYMN #524 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart’s unrest;
’Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have opened
our eyes of faith to see Jesus present in this Holy Supper of His body and
blood. Strengthened in the faith, grant that we proclaim the praises of
Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light; through Jesus
Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

People: for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #744 "Amazing Grace"

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!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Choir Director

Organist 5:00

Organist Sunday

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Virginia Sell, Laurel Privatt

Josh Klement, Nik Mueller

Nancy Hoelke

Kim Woller

Jo Bender

Kim Woller