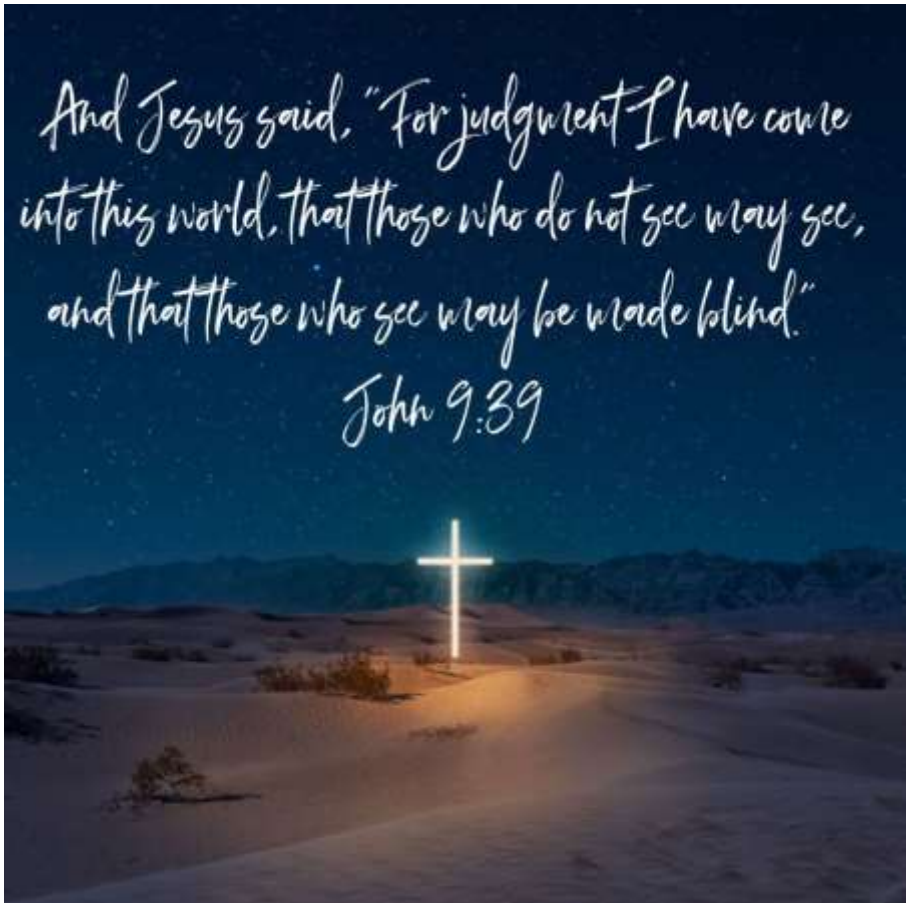


And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come
into this world, that those who do not see may see,
and that those who see may be made blind."

John 9:39



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"In Nomine Iesu"

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at St. Paul's Lutheran Church! We are glad that you have come to the Lord's house today to be fed and strengthened by God's holy Word. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning and pray that your hearing of God's Word may be a blessing to your life and salvation. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

Everyone is asked to fill out the registration card found in your pew rack. The ushers will gather the cards from both members and guests following worship.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is also a sign of our common confession of faith. We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Speak to Pastor Williamson or an usher if you would like to commune at St. Paul's for the first time.

Prelude *“Beautiful Savior”* F. Melius Christiansen

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

The Order of Worship

Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service Setting Four with Communion

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness;
therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him
in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us
first consider our unworthiness and confess before God
and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and
deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful
condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the
infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His
grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful
to me, a sinner.

All **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our
sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of
the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *Ps. 27:4-6; antiphon Ps. 25:15*

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:

C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days
of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to
inquire in his temple.**

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.**

P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all
around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts
of joy;

C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

All **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.**

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

C **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

Kyrie

LSB 204



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis *is omitted during Lent*

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

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.**

(be seated)

Choir Anthem

"O Lord Have Mercy"
Choral setting by Hal Hopson

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

¹⁸ Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹ The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

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

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel (*please stand*)

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB #537

Sermon

Presentation of the Offering &

Musical Offering *"Lamb of God"* Christiansen

Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (*please stand*)

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

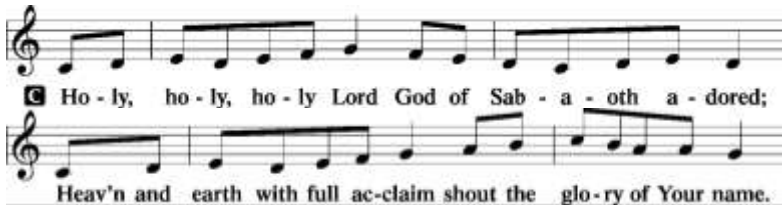
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

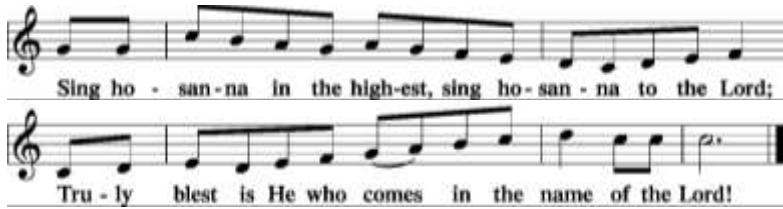
P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Lord's Prayer

All 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 Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution (be seated)

(All members of our St. Paul’s family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup. *Children are welcome to remain standing to receive a blessing from the pastor.*)

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains *white* grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain *red* wine. Gluten free wafers are also available from a communion assistant.)

Distribution Hymns

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”
“Amazing Grace”

LSB #637
LSB #744

Nunc Dimittis *(please stand)*



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this precious gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

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

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

LSB #849

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude *“O Love, How Deep”* Benjamin Culli

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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