Trinity Lutheran Church
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Building His body
By Reflecting the Son
www.tlcsealy.org

March 15, 2026 **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Rev. Ken Bersche ***Maggie Kent, Secretary***

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand* "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

♩ A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe. With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

♩ No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected. You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

♩ Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage. His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

♩ God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 657–Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Martin Luther, 1483–1546;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

With my voice I cry out to the Lord;

With my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord. *Psalm 142:1*

A Time of Silence

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, open our eyes. 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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to you. As a called and ordained

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

Amen.

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated* Isaiah 42:14–21

14For 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.
15I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.
16And 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.
17They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images, “You are our gods.”
18Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!
19Who 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?
20He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.
21The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

The Epistle Ephesians 5:8–14

8For 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."

Gradual Hymn

"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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744–Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 9:1–41

[1]As 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.

[8]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?" [9]Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." [10]So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11]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." [12]They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

[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."

[18]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 [19]and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20]His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. [21]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." [22](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. [23]Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him.")

[24]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." [25]He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing

I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26]They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27]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?" [28]And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29]We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30]The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. [31]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. [32]Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. [33]If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [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." [40]Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" [41]Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn "Beautiful Savior"

♩ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

♩ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

♩ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

♩ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904; Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

"Cause and Effect" John 9:1–41

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord. *Colossians 3:1*
Let us give thanks to Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise. *Psalm 136*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♩ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heav'n and earth Your glory show.
With the life and breath You've given We Your name praise here below
Sing hosanna, blest is He who Comes to us, our Savior dear.
Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna far and near.

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *1 Corinthians 11:26 & Revelation 22:20*

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

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Agnus Dei *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♩ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Savior, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Jesus, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Savior from the world above,
Jesus, Lamb of God our Savior, take our sins from us away.
Comfort us by Your sweet presence. Grant us peace to us today.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated* "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

♩ O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:

♩ When once You visit darkened hearts. Then truth begins to shine.
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

♩ O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:

♩ May ev'ry heart confess Your name. Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame to seek You more and more!

♩ Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 554–Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153;
tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.; Text: Public domain

"Not All the Blood of Beasts"

♩ Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.

♩ But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.

♩ My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.

♩ My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree; I know my guilt was there.

♩ Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 431–Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.; Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

Amen.

Recessional Hymn "Glory Be to Jesus"

♩ Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!

♩ Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

♩ Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

♩ Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

♩ Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

♩ Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 433–Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude