



March 19, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- ♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 790 - Text: Joachim Neander 1650-80; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuertem Gesang Buchs, Stalsund 1665; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!

Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,

Your salvation according to Your promise.

Psalms 119:33-35, 40-41

Confession and Absolution

Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.

A Time of Silence

God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

Amen.

The 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.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

- ♪ My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.
- ♪ I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.
- ♪ I’ll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.”
- ♪ In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.”

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 364 -Text: William R Featherston 1848-1875;
Tune: Adoniram J. Gordon 1836-1895; Public Domain; Christian Copyright License International #1217384*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴Now 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.

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), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for 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

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

♪ Lord, the light of Your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
~Shine on me, Shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

♪ Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness; Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
~Shine on me...

♪ As we gaze on Your kingly brightness So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory; Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story;
~Shine on me....

*Shine, Jesus, Shine-Text & Tune: Graham Kendrick; ©1987 Make Way Music (ASCAP) admin. Music Services, Inc.;
Used by permission; Christian Copyright License International #1217384*

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 9:1–41

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

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

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

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

²⁴So 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.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus 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

“Just As I Am without One Plea”

- ♪ Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, though tossed about With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- ♪ Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev’ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Proclamation of the Word

“Your Reaction to the Man Born Blind”

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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn *Music: “Holy God, We Praise”, Hymn 940*

♪ Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.

All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav’n above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

♪ Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising:

Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heav’ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

♪ My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me, Love to the loveless shown

That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I

That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

♪ He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none

The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend,

My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

♪ Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day

Hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!”

Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.

♪ Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,

He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these Themselves displease And ’gainst Him rise.

- ♪ They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes That He His foes From thence might free.
- ♪ In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave. What may I say?
Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.
- ♪ Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 430 -Text: Samuel Crossman c.1624-83; Tune: John N. Ireland 1879-1902
© John Ireland Trust; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Post-Communion Hymn *Music: "Holy God, We Praise", Hymn 940*

- ♪ Thou art King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed, As to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.
- ♪ Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring bend the knee While we own the mystery.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 940-Text: Latin 4th cent.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna 1774;
tr. Clarence Walworth 1820-1900; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Recessional 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: John Newton 1725-1807, vv. 1-4; A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, v. 5
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude