

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Eyes to See  
March 14 & 15, 2026

### AS WE GATHER

In the season of Lent, we follow Jesus, moving ever closer to His Passion and cross. By listening to His Word and receiving His body and blood, we learn to see Him rightly. In the Old Testament Reading, Israel is shown to be a failure as God's servant: "He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear" (Isaiah 42:20). Israel is blind and deaf to the truth. God's true servant is the One who suffers (see Isaiah 52–53). That Suffering Servant will open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. In the Epistle, believers are called "children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) and called to walk in the Light. Believers walk in the Light who is Christ (John 9:5) as they wait for His glory to be fully revealed: "when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you'" (Ephesians 5:13–14).

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

### VERSE

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

**People: with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**

*Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

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

**People: 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.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve judgment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs. Give us new eyes, that we may see your merciful goodness and give thanks for all the ways your light scatters our darkness; 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)

**SUNDAY BAPTISM SONG #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

**SUNDAY BAPTISM OF Faith Amerie Brunson**

LSB p. 268

✠ **WORD** ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 42:14–21* (The Lord will lead His people in a new way, turning darkness into light.) 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.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known

3 continued

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.<sup>17</sup> They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.”<sup>18</sup> Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!<sup>19</sup> 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?<sup>20</sup> He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.<sup>21</sup> The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 5:8–14* (The Lord positions us to walk as children of light.)<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),<sup>10</sup> and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret.<sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,<sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SUNDAY CHOIR**

*“Call to Lent”*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39* (Jesus heals a man born blind.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth.<sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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

4 continued

world, I am the light of the world.”<sup>6</sup> 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<sup>7</sup> and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.<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> 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.”<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **HYMN #588 “Jesus Loves Me”**

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me He who died. Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. Refrain

#### **SERMON HYMN #427 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

#### **SERMON**

**“Jesus Spits...”**

John 9:1-41

#### **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.

(Rise)

#### **SATURDAY NICENE CREED**

**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.**

6 continued

**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)

#### **HYMN DURING OFFERING #422 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”**

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by your blessed Gospel, and hide us in your shelter in the day of trouble.

**People:** **Provide a home in your Church for those cast out by this world, and unite them with us in the pure confession of your name.**

**Pastor:** Lord of the Church, bless and prosper the work of all missionaries, especially our Together in Mission partners, Chuck Ferry and family.

**People:** **By your Holy Spirit, grant success to their efforts and bring many more to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.**

**Pastor:** Lord of our salvation, we rejoice in Faith Amerie Brunson, who is baptized into Christ this weekend. Bless her parents to raise her in the Christian faith.

**People:** **Bless us all to receive new members of Christ's family with open arms.**

**Pastor:** Lord of glory, you have gathered your Church and sanctified us in your truth. Guide and direct Matthew, our Synod president; Nathan, our district president; and Barry, our circuit visitor. Preserve all vacant congregations, send laborers into your harvest and sustain those whom you have sent.

**People:** **Bless Pastor Schneider as he prayerfully considers the call extended to him from St. Paul's. Bless St. Paul's and Brookfield Lutheran churches to welcome his decision in faith.**

**Pastor:** Almighty Father, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith.

**People:** **Preserve us all from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life.**

**Pastor:** Lord God, you have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays your glory. Sustain all those afflicted in body or soul, especially Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah.

**People:** **By the guiding of your Holy Spirit, move them to take heart, to believe your promises, and trust you for healing and help in the midst of their trials.**

**Pastor:** Lord of Life, Bless and be with Rosie Pups and family as they remember the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George's entrance to heaven and as they joyfully Celebrate Charlie's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**People:** **Grant us all to treasure the people in our lives and to deal graciously with our friends, families, and fellow believers.**

**Pastor:** Blessed, O Lord, is everyone who is not offended by Christ. Build us up in the one Holy Christian and Apostolic faith.

**People:** Give us faith to believe His Word, seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess your truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar.

**Pastor:** O Lord, those who wait for your salvation have the promise that you will not forsake them.

**People:** Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places; lead them to the light of Christ and help them find the way of righteousness so they may not be put to shame.

**Pastor:** All these things, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking you to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with your will and to trust that you will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the darkness of sin and Satan and gave His light and life to many that we might once again celebrate Jesus' resurrection with joy and truth. 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 p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**SATURDAY THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**People:** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

LSB p. 163

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 HYMNS**

**HYMN #421 "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"**

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,  
Draw me to Your cross and passion, And new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard, Let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"  
That the tempter flee confounded.

10 continued

If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices, Let me weigh the awful load  
You were willing to endure. Help me flee all thoughts impure  
And to master each temptation, Calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me, Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For Your all atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,  
Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.

**HYMN #554 "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!

**HYMN #439 "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken"**

O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession, What dark transgression?

They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
With cruel mockings to the cross they urge Thee;  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still decry Thee; They crucify Thee.

Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish;  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him, Who would not know Him.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.

There was no spot in me by sin untainted;  
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;  
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me, Such woe it wrought me.

O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,  
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!  
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying While Thou wert dying.

O mighty King, no time can dim Thy glory!  
How shall I spread abroad Thy wondrous story?  
How shall I find some worthy gifts to proffer? What dare I offer?

For vainly doth our human wisdom ponder-  
Thy woes, Thy mercy, still transcend our wonder.  
Oh, how should I do aught that could delight Thee! Can I requite Thee?

Yet unrequited, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
I will renounce whate'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most lowly All fires unholy.

But since my strength will nevermore suffice me  
To crucify desires that still entice me,  
To all good deeds O let Thy Spirit win me And reign within me!

I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.

Whate'er of earthly good this life may grant me,  
I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
I shall not fear what foes can do to harm me  
Nor death alarm me.

But worthless is my sacrifice, I own it;  
Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not disown it;  
Thou wilt accept my gift in Thy great meekness  
Nor shame my weakness.

And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, for opening our eyes through this salutary gift. Help us to walk as children of light, with our eyes ever toward you in faith and toward one another with love; 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: 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 #849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Michael Schumacher  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Marc Stefanic, Katie Librizzi  
Deaconess Carole King

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