

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

March 19, 2023

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
2601 23rd Ave South — Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: (701) 293-1047
Pastor Chris Waldvogel
Pastor Brian Shane

Welcome! The LORD is grieved by the spiritual condition of His people, yet in mercy, He does not forsake them. He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. “For his righteousness’ sake,” He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns “the darkness before them into light” (Is. 42:16) because He is “the light of the world” (John 9:5). The Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh “while it is day,” until that night “when no one can work” (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though “at one time you were darkness,” now “you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8). By your Baptism into Christ, you live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon you. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to “awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,” (Eph. 5:14).

+ **Order of Worship** +

Song

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are, by nature, sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

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.

Introit *(Psalm 27:4-6, antiphon, Psalm 25, v. 15)*

P: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**C: One thing have I asked of the LORD that I will seek after:
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;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent.
he will lift me high upon a rock.

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

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

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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 might 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

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

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

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

**C: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set
before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**



Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But 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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"He is Lord"

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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."

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

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." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 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. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Song

“Way Maker”

Sermon

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. 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 worshipped 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.

Prayer of the Church

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

Brief silence

P: Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by Your blessed Gospel, and hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble. 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord of hosts, Your Son abides among His saints in the temple of His Church. Shelter all those who seek refuge under the cover of His tent, and raise up pastors in every age to serve them in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Father, through Holy Baptism You have brought us into the light of Christ. Guide us always in Your ways and teach us to know Your will, that we would do what is good and right and true. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, those who wait for Your salvation have the promise that You will not forsake them. Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places, that they would find the way of righteousness and not be put to shame. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Father, You have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays Your glory. Sustain the afflicted in body or soul, especially _____ that they would take heart, trust You for healing and find You even in the midst of their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: *(Other specific petitions)* Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, everyone who believes in Jesus will not be put to shame. Hear us for the sake of Christ and continue to open our hearts and minds to Your great riches of grace and mercy and life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering

Offertory

“Be Still and Know that I am God”

Preface to the Lord’s Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

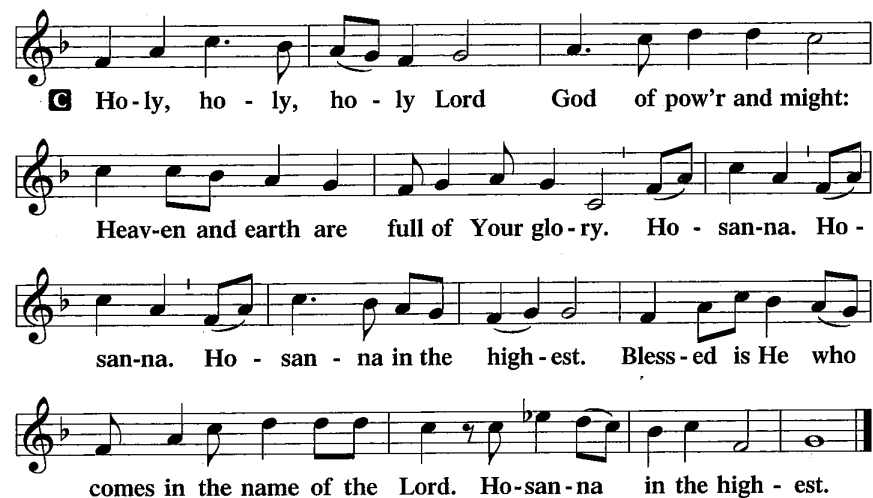
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Proper Preface

P: 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 assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts, we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity 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 saying:

Sanctus



C Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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 Christ's body and 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 to 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.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Words of Institution

(Spoken by the pastor)

P: 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. Do this in remembrance of Me."

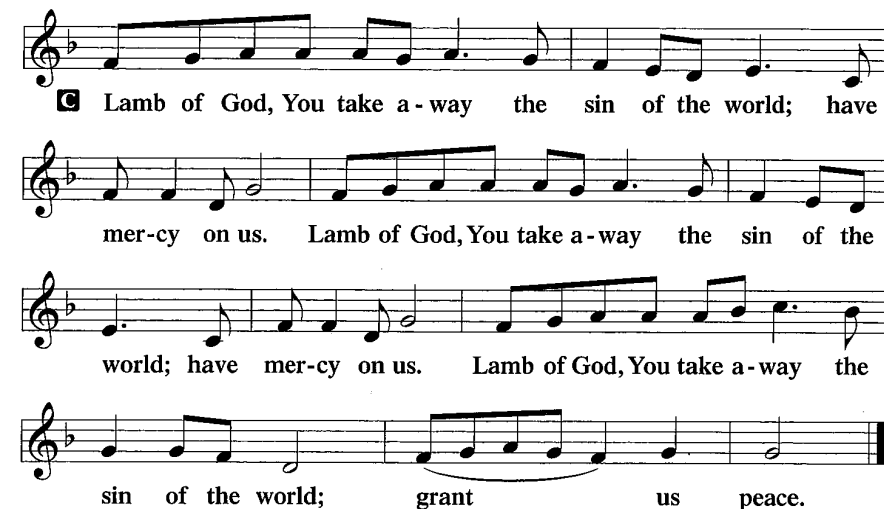
In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Songs

“This is Amazing Grace”

“Shine on Us”

Post-Communion Canticle “Lord, Bid Your Servant” 937

Post-Communion Collect

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: **His mercy and steadfast love endure forever.**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that on the day of His coming, we may, together with all the saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

