

4TH SUNDAY OF

LENT



First Lutheran Church

MARCH 15, 2026

4 LENT

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

Matthew Machemer

Christ, the Life of All the Living

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG

CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

ELW # 339



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C: **And also with you.**

L: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

L: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

L: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.** (*Romans 10*)

SCRIPTURE SONG

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to
Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

The cantor will sing the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.

By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts,
and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

+ + Children may attend Sunday School

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

R: A reading from First Samuel, the sixteenth chapter.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Mer-cy em-brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

The cantor will sing the verses.

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is¹ put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer. **Refrain**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;
I will guide you¹ with my eye. **Refrain**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are¹ true of heart. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

R: A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

- ⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,
- ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out

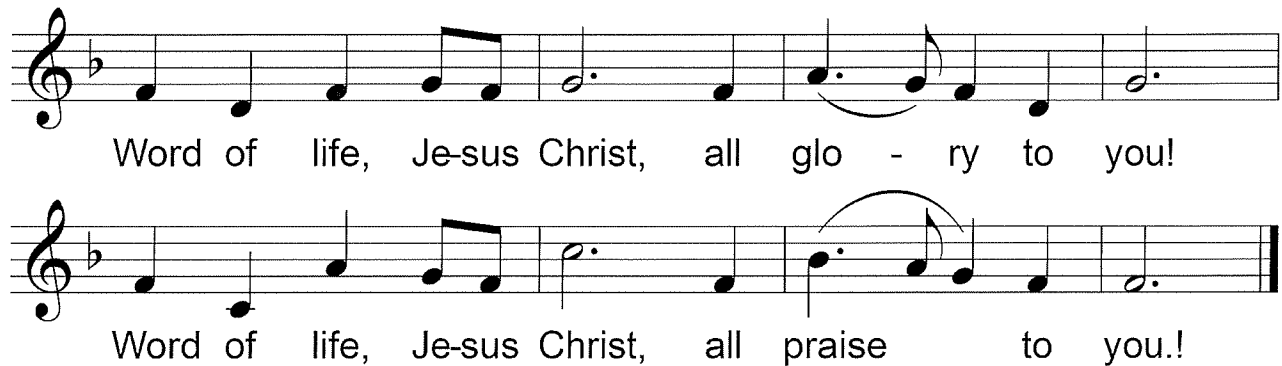
what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

The cantor sings the verse.

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

“Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.”¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then 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 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided.¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” 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 sight¹⁹ 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 we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would 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 they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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 Then 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, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: *The Gospel of the Lord.*



Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

REVEREND MARK SCHURING

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

ELW # 334



1 Tree of Life and awe-some mys-t'ry, in your death we are re -
2 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum-bling though our steps may
3 Give us eyes to see you clear-ly; make us child-ren of your



born; though you die in all of his - t'ry, still you
be; one with you in joy and sor - row, we the
light. Give us hearts to live more near - ly as your



rise with ev - 'ry mourn, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.
riv - er, you the sea, we the riv - er, you the sea.
gos-pel shin - ing bright. as your gos-pel shin - ing bright.

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

L: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

THOMAS

Christopher Uehlein

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY SONG



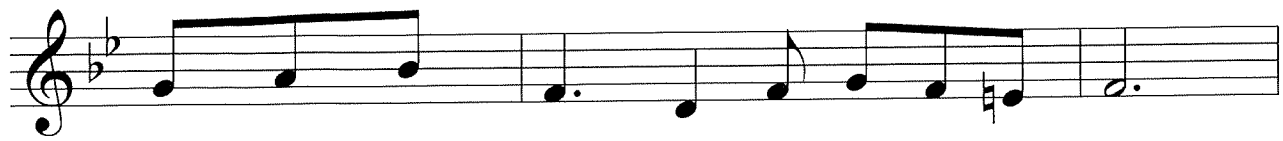
Glo-ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
Your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

Draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,
let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

L: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church.
Lead Christians in our community in right paths for your name's sake.

Each petition concludes:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace.
 L: Serve the Lord.
 P: Believe the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
 RATHBUN

Toccata on In the Cross

David M. Cherwien

Events in Review



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Ordination

First Lutheran Church congregation is invited to Mike Porter's ordination service on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m. at First Christian Church

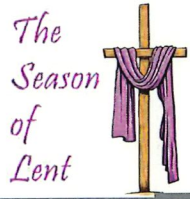
Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Mar 22
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Mar 23
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mar 24
<u>Wednesday</u>	Mar 25
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lent Service
<u>Thursday</u>	Mar 26
1:00 PM	WOFB
<u>Friday</u>	Mar 27
<u>Saturday</u>	Mar 28

<u>Sunday</u>	Mar 15
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Mar 16
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30 PM	Bookworms Anonymous
5:15PM	NO Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mar 17
St. Patrick's Day	
<u>Wednesday</u>	Mar 18
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lent Service
<u>Thursday</u>	Mar 19
<u>Friday</u>	Mar 20
<u>Saturday</u>	Mar 21
National Quilting Day	

Sign up sheet for Lent

Wednesday's Soup, Bread or Rolls & Desserts is on the table in the hallway.



And Daffodils

Order Forms are available on the hallway table.

They are \$15.00 a piece

Orders are due by March 29th

(Palm Sunday)

Monthly Scroll
Available on line and on table in hallway

Contact Us



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Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Sandy & Ron Mellott
Cantor: Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera: The Rosses
Host
Reader: Shelley Ross
Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross
Director of Music: Curtis L. King
Minister: Pastor Mark Schuring

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

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Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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