

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Third Sunday in Lent – March 12, 2023  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Call to Worship**

A: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

A: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**C: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

A: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**C: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**Gathering Hymn - In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW # 324**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAplx977Zk>**

**Invocation and Confession**

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Jesus showed grace to the blind man and restored his sight. Trusting in God's compassion and saving love, we confess our sins and ask his forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection*

L: Almighty God,

**C: although we claim to see and know so much, all too often we are lost in the blindness of our sins. We follow tempting pathways instead of walking in your commandments. We act according to our own desires instead of obeying the guidance of your Holy Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Open our eyes so that, by faith, we will see the wonders of your love and grace.**

L: God had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus the Christ, who opened the eyes of the blind, came to lay down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind!**

**Lenten Hymn - Amazing Grace - ELW #779 – vs 1 & 4**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLCkuXL-uA>

**Kyrie**

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

**C: 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.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

**Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow - ELW #327 Vs 1 & 2**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF69-20\\_GTU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF69-20_GTU)**

### **Prayer of the Day**

A: Almighty God, we pray that by your spirit you would grant us the clear sight of faith to see the wonders of your love and power in our lives.

**C: Through Jesus' redeeming death, we have forgiveness and eternal life.**

A: As the blind man told others about the miracle that had been accomplished in his life,

**C: help us to witness boldly to your amazing grace and tell others of the hope and peace that can be theirs through faith in Jesus.**

A: As the man who was healed worshiped Jesus,

**C: we too worship Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in His holy name. Amen.**

### **The Word**

#### **First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

**<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

<sup>9</sup>when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

**<sup>10</sup>For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.” <sup>11</sup>Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”**

### **Second reading – 2 Corinthians 5:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Holy Gospel – John 9:1-7, (8-23), 24-41**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed 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 world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

*(<sup>8</sup>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?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know.")*

*<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>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." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>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." <sup>18</sup>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 <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>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." <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him.")*

*<sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>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?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not*

from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> 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.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Message – Tim Leitner, SAM**

<https://youtu.be/AVsfjwLsDD0>

**Hymn of the Day – My Song is Love Unknown**

**ELW # 343 - vs 1-4 & 6**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsl0>

### **Apostles’ Creed**

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.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness or poverty. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



A: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfilment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**  
ELW #319 vs 1 & 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzqjglKoEpU>

**Offertory Prayer**

A: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.

**C: Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **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.

## **Distribution**

### **Communion Music**

#### **Post Communion Blessing**

**L:** Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

**A:** Faithful God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

**C: As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.**

**A:** Empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

**C: And touch the world with your love. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

L: God, the giver of love, +Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth, bless you in your Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn – Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - ELW #335**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yn8JI6y4tk>

## **Dismissal**

A: The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;

**C: he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

A: Go in peace serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**