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Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A – Morning Prayer: Matins (ELW 4)  
March 22, 2020- 9:30 am

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Gathering Music  
Welcome and Announcements

\_\_\_\_\_ Call to Worship \_\_\_\_\_

Opening

p. 298



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 1 Let us come be-fore God's  
 pres-ence with thanks-giv - ing and raise a loud shout to the  
 Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great  
 God, and a great rul - er a - bove all gods.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 2 In your hand are the  
 cav-erns of the earth; the heights of the hills are al - so  
 yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your  
 hands have mold-ed the dry land.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the  
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 3 Come, let us wor-ship and bow  
 down; let us kneel be-fore the Lord our mak - er. For the

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the

rock of our sal - va - tion. 3 Come, let us wor-ship and bow

down; let us kneel be-fore the Lord our mak - er. For the

Lord is our God, and we are the peo-ple of God's

pas - ture and the sheep of God's hand.

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the

rock of our sal - va - tion.

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

## The Word

### **First Reading: 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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." <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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.

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

### **Second Reading: 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.*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out 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 mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

*Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the  
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

1 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
2 You have raised up for us a might - y Savior,  
3 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
4 to show mercy to our forebears,  
5 This was the oath you swore to our fa - ther Abraham:  
6 free to worship you without fear,  
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
8 to give God's people knowledge of sal - vation  
9 In the tender compassion of our God  
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

1 you have come to your people and set them free.  
2 born of the house of your ser - vant David. *Refrain*  
3 from the hands of all who hate us,  
4 and to re - member your ho - ly covenant.  
5 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. *Refrain*  
7 for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare the way,  
8 by the for - give - ness of their sins.  
9 the dawn from on high shall break up - on us,  
10 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Refrain*

**\*Gospel:**

**John 9:1-41**

## **Glory to You, O Lord**

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

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] 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."

**PRAYERS of INTERSESSION**

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**Spiritual Communion** In a time when the elements have not been blessed and we are unable to be at a common table with one another, our forefathers in the Christian faith instituted what is known as "Spiritual Communion." In this moment, we prepare ourselves as we would for the physical elements of communion, thinking about God's gifts to us in the Body and Blood of Christ our Lord. Take a moment to pause, to remember your sin, to ask forgiveness. Christ has given his body "for you," Christ has "shed (His blood) for you for the forgiveness of sin." Where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation. Recall God's gifts to you in this moment. Let us pray:

**Jesus, I believe that you are present in sacrament of Holy Communion. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you through the elements of the sacrament, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you as you offer forgiveness, unity, and hope to me an all believers. In your holy name I pray, Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

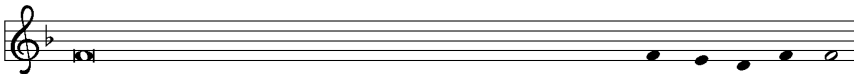
**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, the kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**



Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

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**Amy Truhe, Pastor**

**Office hours are 8 am – 10 am, Monday thru Friday**

**Tyler Breneman, organist**

**Jeanne Lucas, youth director**

**Alisa Jones, office manager**

**Dr. Mark Lucas, choir director**

**Juan Redmon, custodian**

**All services will be online only at either**

**<https://www.facebook.com/melclindsborg/> or**

**<http://www.melclindsborg.org/>. No in person services for this week, including Lent Service or next Sunday**

***Number of people who used the church this past week were 30***

**Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

**Members of Messiah:** Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis. Family and friends of Dorothy (Runbeck) Stout.

**Friends of Messiah**

Donna Stejksal

Denise

Suzi Gentine

Leon & Judy Burch

Charlie Rethorst

Matt Tobey

Bill Stephenson

Daniels' friend

Pari Ford's mother

Paul's sister-in-law

Friends of Warren O. &

Ted K.

Pastor's Friend

B. Holcombe

Joy Janis's brother

Erin Erb

Stephani White

Karla Goewert

Orin Shogren

Danielle

VanDeVyvere

Bruce Butler

Krista Bahler

Friend of Sherry Peterson

Betty Holcombe's daughter

Friend of Kirsten Bruce

Har's brother

Robbie Peterson's granddaughter

Mary Jo Roch

Betty Peterson's Niece

**Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp

Ben Youngquist

Luke Hammontree

Betty Russin's grandson

S Hoffman's nephew

Daniel's grandson

Vicki Charboneau Elaine Eller's granddaughter

Jeremy Guy

Hensley's son-in-law

T.J. Paulsen

Barb Malm's child

**Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

**Seminary**

Kaylie Ines

**As prayers are needed please contact Pastor Amy or the church so we can add. Please do not hesitate to let us know of those in need of prayer!**



## **Wider Church News: BY JEANNE AHLERS**

Globally, an estimated 1 in 3 women have experienced physical, sexual or psychological abuse in their lifetime. This may seem unreal to people who don't live in cultures which accept gender violence as a fact of life, but it's unwise to judge the world by one's own circumstances. The United Nations reports, for instance, that one in five refugees or internally displaced women living in humanitarian crisis have experienced sexual abuse. Sometimes gender-based violence is used as a weapon of war in conflict situations.

For a long time, the international community has failed to respond effectively to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies. Recently, a bipartisan group of legislators in the House of Representatives introduced a bill called *Safe from the Start Act*. This initiative is designed to provide training and integrates interventions to mitigate risks for gender-based violence in all humanitarian sectors. Partnerships with local organizations would be enhanced to provide the protection and empowerment of women and girls, instituting congressional reporting requirements to ensure progress and accountability.

The ELCA has issued a social message on gender-based violence, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action." It notes, "People continue to be harmed. Gender-based violence is a global evil that marks millions of lives." The church commits itself to "advocate for and support laws, policies, and practices that respect diverse bodies rather than discriminating against, objectifying, or devaluing them. Women, girls, and people who identify as non-binary must not be deprived of their human or civil rights."