



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



March 18, 2023

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share,
and Serve'***

***Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be'***

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

"Thank You Jesus For The Blood"

I was a wretch I remember who I was
I was lost I was blind I was running out of time
Sin separated the breach was far too wide
But from the far side of the chasm
You had me in Your sight

So You made a way across the great divide
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed
Broke my chains freed my soul
For the first time I had hope

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light
You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin
You were buried for three days
But then You walked right out again
And now death has no sting and life has no end
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

There is nothing stronger
Than the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood the blood

There is nothing stronger
Than the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood the blood

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

Glory to His name Glory to His Name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

- P** Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
- C** **Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.**
- P** Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.
- C** **Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life! Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.**
- P** We make our beginning in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **Amen.**

Opening Song

“Grace Like Rain”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found; Was blind but now I see so clearly
Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.

Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing Your praise than when we'd first begun.
Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

C **Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**

P God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

C **Amen.**

Song of Praise

"Our God"

Water You turned into wine Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You None like You

Into the darkness You shine Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You None like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer Awesome in power our God our God

Into the darkness You shine Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You None like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against
What could stand against

Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer Awesome in power our God our God

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Our God is greater Our God is stronger
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First Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who 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? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of

God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So 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." ¹⁶Some 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. ¹⁷So 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." ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But 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." ²²(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.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open

your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus 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.

G Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

"Healing Is In Your Hands"

No mountain, no valley, no gain or loss we know,
could keep us from Your love.

No sickness, no secret, no chain is strong enough
to keep us from Your love. To keep us from Your love.

How high, how wide; No matter where I am,
healing is in Your hands.

How deep, how strong; Now by Your grace I stand.
Healing is in Your hands.

Our present, our future, our past is in Your hands;
We're covered by Your blood, we're covered by Your blood.

How high, how wide; No matter where I am,
healing is in Your hands.

How deep, how strong; Now by Your grace I stand.
Healing is in Your hands.

In all things, we know that we are more than conquerors;
You keep us by Your love.

In all things, we know that we are more than conquerors;
You keep us by Your love. You keep us by Your love.

How high, how wide; No matter where I am,
healing is in Your hands.

How deep, how deep is Your love!

How strong, how strong is Your love!

Now by Your grace I stand. Healing is in Your hands.

Message

"Don't Walk in the Dark"/Ephesians 5:8-14

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of the Church

P ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Blessing

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.

Sending Song

"Whom Shall I Fear"

You hear me when I call You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night It cannot hide the light
Whom shall I fear

You crush the enemy underneath my feet You are my sword and shield
Though troubles linger still Whom shall I fear

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies is always by my side

My strength is in Your name For You alone can save
You will deliver me Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear Whom shall I fear

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side

The One who reigns forever He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies is always by my side

And nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful You are faithful

Nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands
I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful You are faithful
You are faithful

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies is always by my side

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever He is a friend of mine
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