

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

#339 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,

forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People of God, look to the ✠ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen

Please be seated

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.

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He 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." ¹³Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm: Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

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

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out

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 mention what such people do secretly;

¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel

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.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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.”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 the man.”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.”

¹³They 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.”

¹⁶Some 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.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.”

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 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.”

²⁴So 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, and 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.

³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³If 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.

³⁵Jesus 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 near 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be Seated

SERMON

“Holy Baptism”

HYMN OF THE DAY “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” #779 ELW

APOSTLE’S 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 into hell. 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

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of the ages, as your church prepares your table for all to celebrate in one holy meal, restore the unity of those who gather in your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You shed light on your creation. Let the changing of the seasons bring forth growth and new life from what was dormant and fallow. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shine your light on the people of every nation. Reveal your reconciling love in places where fear and conflict thrive (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of wholeness, bring clarity to those in confusing times, bring healing to those in painful times, bring peace to those in trying times. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore, renew, and enliven the ministry and work of this congregation. Help us to see your purpose clearly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember and give thanks for those who have joined you in eternal light. Let their lives of faith shine in our hearts and guide our paths. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #815 ELW

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Digital Hymnal: Jim Christensen

Ushers: Wally & Bev Swenson

Hospitality Hosts: Dick & Sue Stebbins

Greeters: Char Berg, Judy Wozney

Lectors: Jeannine Bruesewitz,

Laury Nyberg, Darlene Christensen, Winnie Zahradka

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, March 19, 2017-9:00am 72 Wednesday, March 22, 2017-6:30pm 37

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**March 27 thru April 2, 2017**

Monday	3/27	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/28	10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/29	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck - Table Talk "Holy Baptism"
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	3/30	8:00am	ROMEOS
		10:30 pm	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/31	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	4/1	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Clinic
Sunday	4/2	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Clinic will be on Saturday, April 1st from 1:00-4:00pm. Call the church office at 320 684-2123 (between 11-3, Monday-Friday) to schedule your appointment. Walk ins welcome after 2:30pm.

PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS

- Lois Johnson
- Regina Johnson
- Gloria Westerlund
- Arlene Westerlund

REFORMATION 500 - Luther's Small Catechism

Wednesday's in Lent - Table Talk

March 29 - Holy Baptism

April 5 - Holy Communion

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Wayne & Janice Olson are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday, April 2nd. We and our family invite you to join us for cake and coffee following service.

WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING – April 1st, Zion Lutheran Church Milaca. Women – mark your calendar for the Spring Gathering in Milaca at Zion Lutheran church. Registration & brunch 9 am. \$8 per person includes brunch & snack. It's great to connect with others on our journey.

PARSONAGE PLEDGE FORM – If you haven't received your pledge form in the mail, we have copies on the table in the Narthex. Please fill out and return as soon as possible so we can plan financing thru our bank.

EASTER SUNDAY breakfast has been canceled!