

Sunday February 27, 2022

The Man Born Blind – Last Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com

Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 218-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 218-839-8193

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: The family of Patti Honnold who passed away in Arizona recently.

TODAY! JUNK BINGO Free will donation for Bingo cards. Win some nice junk (treasures!) Bring an appetizer to share. We will supply beverages.

END OF LIFE SEMINARS Our next End of Life session will be on Wednesday, March 16 at 11 am. Bethesda parishioner Cindy Perrson, a RN and public health nurse specializing in home health care and hospice care will speak about hospice care and Death Doulas. Session is about 40 minutes long with questions following. Bring your own bag lunch.

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA You are invited to join Isle Community Lenten Choir and participate in an enriching musical and spiritual experience. First Rehearsal Feb. 27th at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. Registration begins at 2:15pm, rehearsals 2:30-4:00pm Sundays in Lent. Performance on Good Friday, April 15, 2022, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

WOMEN of the ELCA HEARTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE - Saturday, April 9, 2022 Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca 245 Central Ave South, Milaca. See poster in Narthex for more information.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **Feb. 28, 2022 – Mar. 6, 2022**

Monday	2/28	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	3/2	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday	3/3	8:00 am	ROMEOs
Sunday	3/6	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN: "Oh Wonderous Image, Vision Fair" #316 ELW



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
5 O Fa - ther, with the_e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
 car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
 deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In ✚ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of vision,

Too often we are spiritually blindfolded, unable to see you at work in our

world. Remove barriers that keep us from seeing. Help us to be light for others. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1-4 (*Read Responsively*)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41

Glory to you, O Lord

¹As he 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." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." 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. ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁷So 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 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 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. 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?" ²⁸Then 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, "Here is an astonishing 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 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." ³⁴They 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?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Christ be Our Light" (verses 1, 2, 5)

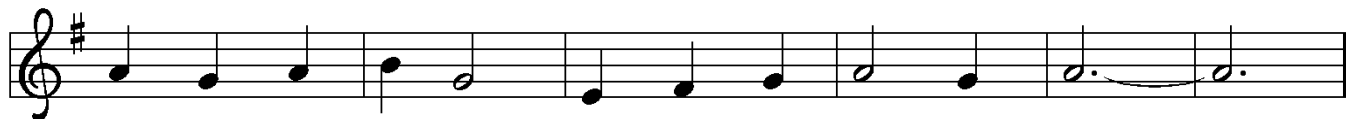
#715 ELW



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



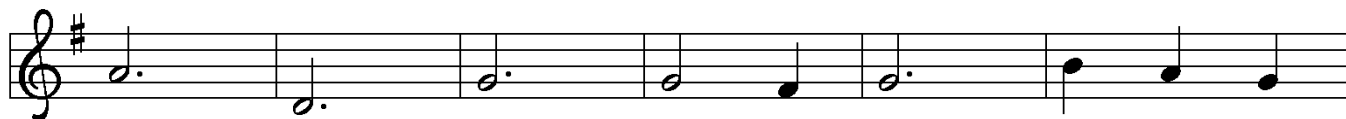
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Please stand if you are able

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 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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Heal those who are in distress (*especially*). Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the

wilderness of Lent. Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him (*especially*). Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE - *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Come to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,

for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

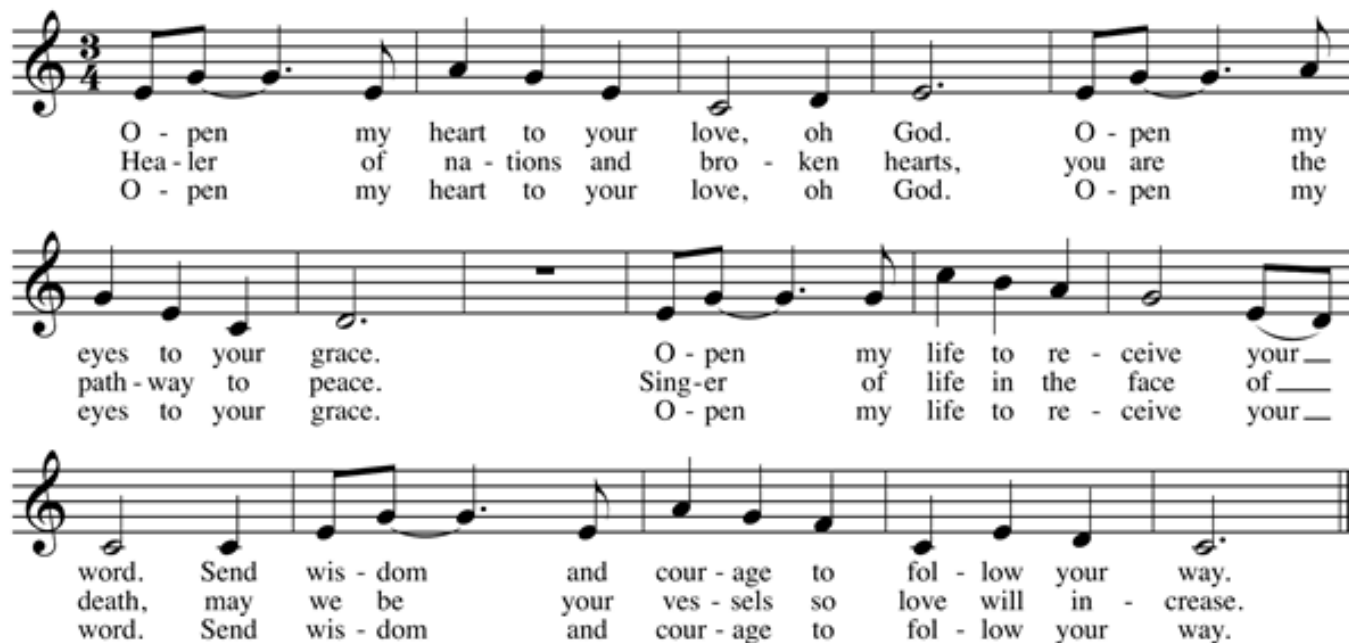
Amen.

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Open My Heart to Your Love” Dakota Road



O - pen my heart to your love, oh God. O - pen my
Hea - ler of na - tions and bro - ken hearts, you are the
O - pen my heart to your love, oh God. O - pen my
eyes to your grace. path - way to peace. eyes to your grace.
O - pen my life to re - ceive your
Sing - er of life in the face of
O - pen my life to re - ceive your
word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to fol - low your way.
death, may we be your ves - sels so love will in - crease.
word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to fol - low your way.

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Greeters: Janice & Wayne Olson

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Attendance: Sunday, February 20, 2022: In Person: 9:00 am 39 Online: 14