

March 12, 2023
3rd Sunday in Lent



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #8

"Father, Who the Light This Day"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

G **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

G Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 84:1-5

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

G **How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

P My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

G **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

P Blessèd are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

G **Blessèd are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

G **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Isaiah 42:14-21

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

John 9:1ff

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . ¹³ They 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 So 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." ¹⁶ Some 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. ¹⁷ So 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." . . . ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith *The 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 Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
 buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again
 from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the
 right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall
 come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church,
 the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
 resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Ephesians 5:5-21

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for 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), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

You Are Light, Be Bright! (Be Who You Are)**The Offertory**

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- ☞** **♫ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #141 "Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Hymn: TLH #47 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

Missionary Commissioning: This morning, Pastor Bruce Naumann was commissioned as our CLC Missionary to Tanzania. The commissioning took place during the 9:00am worship service this morning at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. You can watch the service and commissioning on Messiah's website (<https://eauclairemessiah.com/>) or on their YouTube page. On Messiah's YouTube page you will find a Bible Class presentation by Pastor Naumann about the work he will be doing in Tanzania, and another by Missionary Todd Ohlmann from this weekend. Pastor Naumann will be leaving for Tanzania at the end of this month and his wife Paula will be joining him there this summer. Please remember Pastor Naumann and Paula in your prayers as they begin this important work for our Savior and His kingdom abroad!

CLC Call News: Grace Lutheran of Valentine, NE **has called** a teaching graduate from ILC. <> Mrs. Haley Seffens **has accepted the call** to teach kindergarten at Messiah, Eau Claire. <> Paul Agenten **has accepted the call** to be a summer-long Vicar at Immanuel, Mankato.

<u>March 5th Offerings:</u>	\$ 1,522.50
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,661.54
General Fund Balance	\$18,922.73
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$36,230.95
Total Cash All Funds	\$70,489.52

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 13 - 18, '23

Mon Luke 9:51-56 Jesus face was set to go to Jerusalem, but not to destroy mankind, by nature sinful and unclean, but to save them at the cost of His very life. The human response to animosity is greater animosity, which Jesus turned and rebuked.

Tues 1 Peter 1:13-16 Peter, whose response in Gethsemane had been to draw his sword, now points rather to the grace of God in Christ. This will move God's obedient children not to follow the passions of their former ignorance, but to conduct themselves as children of the heavenly Father.

Wed Luke 22:63-65 The passions of ignorance included mocking God's Servant Jesus. His captors challenged His prophetic office, by suggesting that if He were a prophet He should prove it by responding to their "test." We, too, are tempted at times to put God to our tests. "If God really cared, He would..."

Thurs Luke 22:66-71 After practice trials during the night, it was necessary to convene in the daytime to make Jesus' condemnation legal. This is accomplished by getting Him to testify that He is the Christ, the Son of God. For them this justified killing the Lord of Glory. For us this is the light of Salvation shining through the clouds of death.

Fri Jeremiah 26:1-15 The prophet Jeremiah was sent to call people back from their evil ways to the true God. He was given the words to speak which prophesied the end of those who reject God's word. The people's passionate response was to encircle God's messenger, haul him to court, and threaten him with death.

Sat 2 Peter 1:19-21 Peter speaks of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and reminds us that God's prophets (like Jeremiah) spoke what they were moved to speak by the Holy Spirit. Their words bring light in the darkness, and Christ's fulfillment brings the dawn of a new day in our hearts.