

The Mission of Zion Lutheran Church is: To Make Jesus Known To All In Our Words and Actions

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

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

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess before you and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy time, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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

C: Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 23

We pray the psalm in unison.

¹**The 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.**

³**You 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.**

⁵**You 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.**

Gospel: John 9:1-25

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

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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." 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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

P: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Response to each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

C: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

Benediction

P: As you go on your way, remember that God goes with you.

God goes before you to show you the way,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to be your friend,
above you to watch over you,

and within you always to give you peace.

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

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Prayer Requests +

- *For those who mourn: the family and friends of Phil Bachman*
- *For those in need of healing: Mike Quiring (brother of Mary Gilman), Barry Jacques, Tim Anderson, Taylor Antony, Sadie and Elsie Sorensen (newborn daughters of Robby & Logan Sorensen), Tiana Iverson, John Greenough, Jan Barnick (daughter-in-law of Dorothy Barnick), Lonnie Honstad, Jeff Dunker, Cole Barden, Erin Visser, Donald Schmidt, Maddie Teigen, and Jed Visser;*
- *For those who are deployed: Evan Masters (brother of Chelsea Copeland).*
- *For those who serve: Public health officials, government leaders, healthcare workers, and others who are leading our nation through the COVID-19 pandemic.*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, March 22	Service of the Word on Facebook	9:00 am
	Music from Sheldon Meyer on Facebook	9:30 am
Monday, March 23	Bible Study on Zoom	11:00 am
Tuesday, March 24	April Newsletter Input is due to Mary	
Wednesday, March 25	Holden Evening Prayer on Facebook	6:45 pm
Sunday, March 29	Service of the Word on Facebook	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Life during COVID-19 Social Distancing:

- **In-Person worship services are suspended through at least March 29.** Zion's leaders will continue to monitor CDC and MN Dept of Health guidelines to understand when we might resume and what precautions will need to be in place. News and updates will be shared via the church website and Facebook.
- **Worship will continue to be streamed via Facebook** on Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:45. Our remaining Lent speakers for our "Wondrous Love" series will be Doug Midthun (March 25) and Myron Sandstrom (April 1).
- **The Monday "Dwelling on the Word" study is shifting to an online format!** You're invited to join us for a time of prayer, reflection and conversation as we consider the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. To join us on Monday at 11:00, please go to:
<https://zoom.us/j/8780783081>

- **Offerings** can be mailed to the Church Office (PO Box 236, Lake Crystal). This may be a good time to consider donating online at the church website: www.zionluthlakecrystal.org.
- **All remaining Lent meals and the Easter Breakfast have been cancelled.** These meals have been important fundraisers for Zion's ministries. If you would like to make a special gift to support the Youth Fund, Camp Scholarships, or the General Fund, please mark your offering accordingly and mail it to the church office.
- **The Church Office will be closed to visitors through March 31** (although staff may be working in the building). To reach a member of the staff or arrange for a delivery, please call the church office: 507-726-2849. For immediate pastoral needs, contact Pastor Andrea Myers: 507-402-1114.

The Lake Crystal Sharing Shelf continues to serve our community during this time of need.

Donations of food can be dropped in the cart at Kevin's Market. They are currently in need of the following: flour, oil, chili with beans, pears, apple sauce, bags of white rice and 5# bags of potatoes.

Zion will be serving Food for Friends on Saturday, March 28 at the Salvation Army. The Social Ministry team reports that we have enough volunteers and donations at this time. Thank you!

LOST: A yellow and black handled screwdriver was lost at church. If you find it, please return it to the church office so we can get it back to its owner. Thank you!