

ELM GROVE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor ♦ Vicar Samuel Lee

Rev. Carl J. Egloff, Pastor Emeritus ♦ Ms. Heather A. Corn, Principal

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 21, 2020 & Sunday, March 22, 2020

Preparatory Prayer: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. [Collect for Fourth Sunday in Lent]

Matins

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Anton W. Leupold

Hymn

Jesus, Priceless Treasure – LSB 743



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus priceless treasure!

Versicles & Response

L O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

L Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

Venite

C **O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise unto Him with songs of praise.**

**For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.**

**For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Antiphon (Common)

L Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

Psalm

Psalm 127

P Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

C **Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.**

P It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest eating the bread of anxious toil;

C **for he gives to his beloved sleep.**

P Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,

C **the fruit of the womb a reward.**

P Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

C are the children of one's youth.

P Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

C: He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Office Hymn

God Loved the World So That He Gave – LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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Readings from Holy Scripture

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.

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."

Gospel

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

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.

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."

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."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (for Lent)

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven and whose sin is put away.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Sermon

Canticle

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - LSB790

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief
Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

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(Your offering can be left in the large brown box at the back of the nave.)

Kyrie

C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day & Other Prayers

Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Beautiful Savior – LSB 537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

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Postlude

Beautiful Savior – F. Melius Christiansen

ALTAR PARAMENTS: Purple paraments suggest the somber, solemn mood of this penitential season while the symbols of torture bring to mind Christ's suffering and death to save us.

Participants

Preacher
Organist

Pastor Skovgaard
Richard C. Ewert

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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ABOUT the FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT

Theme: The Eyes of Faith

– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

No more silence; the LORD could tolerate Israel's idolatry no longer. (Isaiah) He would give sight to the blind, but those who chose to remain in darkness and silence would be under His wrath - He makes His law great and glorious for the sake of His righteousness. As it was in Israel, so it is among us. All the baptized faithful live in a world darkened by sin; yet we are children of the light. (Ephesians) The light of Christ shines brightly in His church and we are called to shed His light into the dark recesses of evil all around; then we can see clearly what is good and right and true. In Jerusalem the man born blind met up with Jesus. (John) He once was blind, but now he saw. Yet sight for the eyes is not the same as sight for the heart. Meeting Jesus again, He worshipped Him. Thus He truly saw with the eyes of faith what many seeing people could not see: God come down to earth in flesh!

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and thanksgivings to our heavenly Father.

- Sunday** Isaiah 42:14-21? How is the LORD like a woman in childbirth? What is He planning to bring forth? What is His verdict on idolaters? In what way is Israel deaf and blind? Are we? What solution does He offer to them and to us?
- Monday** Ephesians 5:8-14 Who are the children of light? What fruit is produced in them? Where are deeds of darkness evident today? How are they exposed? Who is the light? Where and how does He shine? What does this mean?
- Tuesday** John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39 How did Jesus restore physical sight to the blind man? What did he think of Jesus? How was he led to spiritual sight (faith)? What tragic spiritual blindness remained among the Pharisees? For what purpose has Jesus come into the world? What does this mean?
- Wednesday** Psalm 142 In what predicament is the Psalmist? How could these words also reflect the suffering of Jesus? What confidence was His/is ours in the face of affliction?
- Thursday** Ezekiel 37:1-14 What did the prophet see before him? What was the question God asked him? What was the answer? What was the meaning of this vision for Ezekiel? For us? How is this done?
- Friday** Romans 8:1-11 How has God already condemned sin? What "mindset" belongs to us by birth? By rebirth as a child of God? What is the source of life for all who belong to Christ? What does this mean?
- Saturday** John 11:17-27, 38-53 Who had died in Bethany? Which present and future gifts did Jesus imply in His statement: *I am the resurrection and the life?* With what power did Jesus raise Lazarus? How will He raise you? What present reality is therefore yours right now? What does this mean?

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 29, 2020

***"Martha's Great Confession"* [John 11:17-27] – Pastor Skovgaard, Preacher**