

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

As we gather:

Our gospel reading today is the story of Jesus healing the man who was born blind. But before he is the recipient of Jesus' grace, he is the victim of the disciples' theologizing. "Who sinned," they ask Jesus, "this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" What a human question! Instead of looking upon the man with compassion, they see an opportunity to blame someone. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, we see similar responses. Which country is to blame? Why didn't the government do something different? Why aren't those people social distancing more, well, distantly? It's not that these are bad questions, necessarily. They just don't do much. Today, with the man born blind, we receive new vision. Let us see things with eyes of grace and forgiveness. Jesus brings our dead eyes back to life. Let us look upon the world, this crisis, and each other as Jesus looks upon us with hope, mercy, grace, and love.



+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: If You but Trust in God to Guide You Michael D. Costello

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

 Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- @ Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- **P** Gracious God,
- **G** have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

 As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE (green) LBW #168





Text: Latin, c. 1100; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt. Music: KYRIE, GOTT VATER, "Kyrie fons bonitatis," c. 800, adapt.

Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

PRAYER OF THE DAY

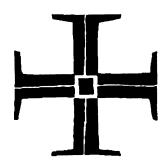
P The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1–13

The 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.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

- The Lord | is my shepherd;*

 I shall not | be in want.
- He makes me lie down | in green pastures* and leads me be- | side still waters.
- L He re- | vives my soul* and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.
- ☐ 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.
- Let You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- Surely your 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

For once 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."

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE: John 8:12

Michael D. Costello

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life."

HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1–41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As [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." 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."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

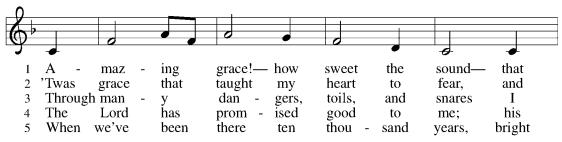
CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Who Should We Blame?

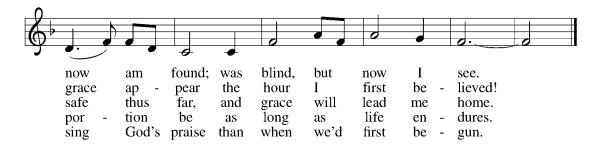
The Rev. David Lyle John 9:1–41

HYMN OF THE DAY: Amazing Grace









Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

NICENE CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- A 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.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- Amen.



Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt. Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

St. 2 text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: If You but Trust in God to Guide You, BWV 647

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister The Rev. Michael D. Costello, organist

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LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Ken Folgers Al Hillmer Tim Sandvoss Annalise Balock Dennis Forgue Pat Scala Rachel Hindery Cathy Barker Belen and Ron Gresens Ioan Koerber Carl Schalk Ruth Barker Carl and Donna Gruendler Jerry Koenig Nikki Schmidt Jeanne Bloch David Gruendler Dick and Karen McMahon Carol Stanger Marlene Hallman Jennifer Murtoff Rich and Bonnie Stasack Ed Borg

Sophia Cetin Kathy Haves Paul Nelson Gerlinde VanDriesen Adrienne Rott Hans Dumpys Ken Heppner

Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell) Vanice Bakko (friend of Irmgard Swanson)

Bruce Barker (brother of Cathy)

Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel) Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz) Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson)

Elizabeth Byrne (mother of Elizabeth Asher) Patricia Carey (friend of Marilyn Heppner)

Karla Carter (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Nessim Cicurel (uncle of Ed Schumacher) Stephen Clarke (brother of Stewart)

The Corlew Family (friends of Pat Anderson)

Elena Davis (friend of Sue Allen)

Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack)

Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel) Kris Diderickson (cousin of Susan Schumacher) Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Richard Freeman (brother of Linda Webb) Leah Giovinga Garcia (friend of Karin Danganan)

Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz) Nancy Grumm (aunt of Ali Carris)

Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Ryan Hall (nephew of Judy and Jim Kerns) Thomas Heinze (brother-in-law of Pat Gulik) Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) Ellen Hinz (mother of Julie Hinz) Marian Hogue (mother of Merrily Smith) Gale Holmlund (friend of Deb Maxwell) Kathy Howard (friend of Pat Anderson)

John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner) Rob Kay (brother of Tom Kay)

Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten) Joy Kluge (daughter-in-law of David and Sharon) Lenny Kobilca (friend of Deanna Marotz) Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson) Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson) Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson)

John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson)

Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich)

Lily (friend of Carrie Douma)

Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli)

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell)

Mary Jo Meyer (aunt of Brooke Schedler)

Don Moehlenkamp (brother of Marilyn Moehlenkamp) Donald Mullins (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Beverly Murtoff (mother of Jennifer Murtoff) Aaron Offermann (grandson of Don and Verna) Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester)

Misty Olson (friend of Sara Chizzo)

Marilynn Paulson (mother of Mary Paulson) James Pawlowski (brother-in-law of Jennifer Staples)

Becky Peterson (friend of Jennifer Staples) James Powers (friend of Al Swanson)

Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott)

Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba)

Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson) Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson) Joyce Roche (cousin of Cathy Schnittker) Sarah Rourke (daughter of Marnie Rourke) Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Rev. Ron Schuette (father of Esther Armstrong) Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten)

Lee Stephens (brother of Tony) Konrad Swider (friend of Al Swanson) Stella Taylor (friend of Paul Eichwedel) Ilene Thompson (sister of Marilyn Hebbner)

Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel)

Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz)

Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen)

Robert West (friend of John and Carol Stanger) Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas)

Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz)

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Child & Family Services of Illinois (LCFS)

Those who mourn

Stephen W. Reinke (friend of Dan Lehmann)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus)

Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout)

Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks)

David Danford (son of John and Karen)

E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting)

Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz)

Brent Knop (great-nephew and godson of Martha Rohlfing)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Noah Groll (England) Andrew Krueger (England) Colleen Lattyak (Germany)

Those who are homebound

Sal Amati Ruth Laux Fern Bernhardt Wayne Lucht

Barbara Bunjes Walt and Carolyn Martin

Christopher Davis Joanne Nelson Marie Gierke Barbara Rinnan Ronald Gresens Kathleen Wrobel

Gloria Hillert

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Winnebago Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher)
Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone)
Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie)
Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss)
Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)
E-MAIL ADDRESS
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
,
PHONE NUMBER

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- □ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail.
 - Sunday Is Coming.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me

via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.



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www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal **Gerald Koenig**, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Makayla Dahleen, Youth Ministry Associate Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager