

Salem Lutheran Church ~ March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ Service of the Word ~ John 9:1-41

GREETING

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ PSALM 23

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 be- | side 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-3 (for you to read at a later time)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 (for you to read at a later time)

GOSPEL LITANY

The word is near you / on your lips and in your heart.

**If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord / and believe in your
heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**Faith comes from what is heard / and what is heard comes through
the word of Christ.**

GOSPEL; John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 4th chapter.

ALL: Glory to you, O God

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." 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. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Apostles' 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,**

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**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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become
new!** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Let us pray

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and
unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that
we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of
your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The almighty and merciful Lord strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

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The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYERS

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us to connect, as we are able, reach out to our neighbors in need and to be vigilant in prayer.

Lord we pray:

For all who are affected by coronavirus, dealing with isolation, or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that you provide them with wisdom as they decisions.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health.

Protect and keep safe all who are placing themselves at risk for the good welfare for us and the world.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

God of mercy. Hear our prayer. Amen

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

**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.**

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing. **Amen**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

(Romans 15)

DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to love, care, and serve as faithful and beloved children of God. **Thanks be to God.** And all God's people say: **Amen**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, The family and friends of Opportune Chenou, Dorothy Portera, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Family and friends of Ron Bartholome, Sandy Barthel, Family and Friends of Bill Valentine, Linda and the friends of Ski Kuzinarski, Alan Hahn, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, The family and friends of Warren Thiell, David Buck, Lee Saffran, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Thelma Presinger, Steve Sussan, Kathi Fuller, Bill & Sherri Stout, Julie Stout, Betty Burnet, Judy Sweeney, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret and Jerry Shank, Pete, Dewitt, Jim McNicholas, Aunt Marie, Joan Evans, Steve Norman, Austin Phoebus, Joan & John Kusick, Phil Kulinski, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Lennard Beecher, Jumela Beecher, Seth Bates, Siloa Lutheran Church, Steve White, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dan Gnau, Paula Feldman, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Jim Bair, Craig Perry Beel, Joyce Craig, Aston Dean, Kattie Hale, Kevin Kolb, Carolyn Lynch, Donna Miller, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Stephen Smith, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Please contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates concerning the prayler list.

Note:

Church worship services will continue being suspended through March 29th. As updates are made which impact worship services for April will we keep you informed.