



The Lutheran Church of Times Square
 308 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036
 212 246 3540

Fourth Sunday in Lent ☒ March 22, 2020

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of the Word

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

The assembly kneels as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God at the margins,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way.

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows.

Turn us back to you, O God. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care.

Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

If You But Trust in God to Guide You WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

HYMN 769

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

KYRIE

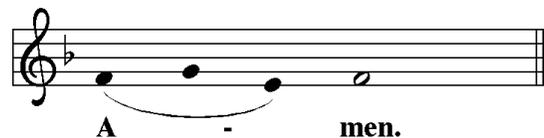
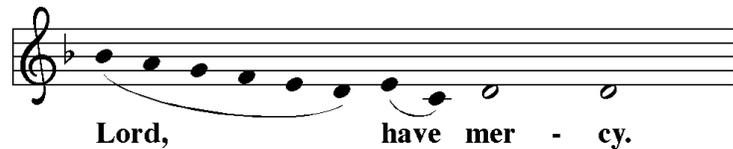
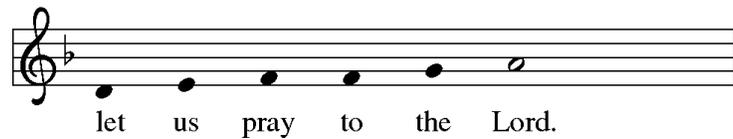
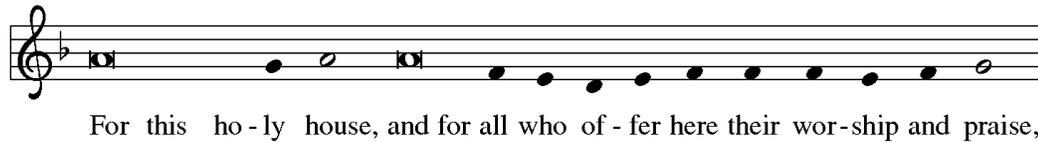
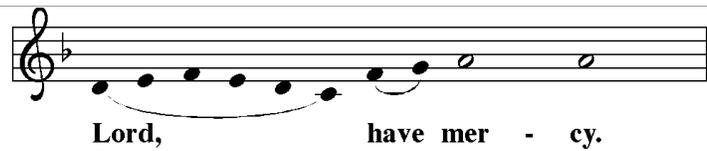
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING

I Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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.

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

PSALM

Psalm 23



You have a - noint - ed my head with oil.

¹The 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.**

³You 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. R**

⁵You 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. R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once 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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and Praise to You



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;* whoever follows me will have the | light of life. (*John 8:12*)

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

After the announcement:



Glo - ry 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." 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."

After the reading:



SERMON

Pastor Strasser

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT

HYMN 799



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your - selves, the world for - sake, o -
 play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
 va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
 point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
 keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
 well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.
 Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

NICENE CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

People with long term prayer needs are:

Girma, Gordon, Mickey, Jimmy, John, Pie, Jean,
 Geraldine, Deborah, Bev, Maricelli, Katie, Jennifer, Henry

... Hear us, O God. *Response:* **Your mercy is great.**

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

PEACE

OFFERING *for God's work through our church*

Please make your offering online (www.stlukesnyc.org bottom right of Home page) or mail to the church.

SOLO

O Rest in the Lord (*Elijah*, Op. 70)

Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires.
Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thy self because of evil doers. *Psalm 37:1, 7*
Lara Tillotson, mezzo-soprano

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, today so many around the world are worshipping you. We give you our humble thanks for the innumerable blessings which, without any merit on our part, you have bestowed on us. We praise you for your saving Word, and the sacred traditions handed on to us. And we beseech you, Lord, to preserve your holy Church and her pastors who will preach your Word with power; and help all who hear, to understand, and to trust in you. Be the Protector and Defender of your people in all time of tribulation and danger. May we hold on to You each day, unto eternal life.

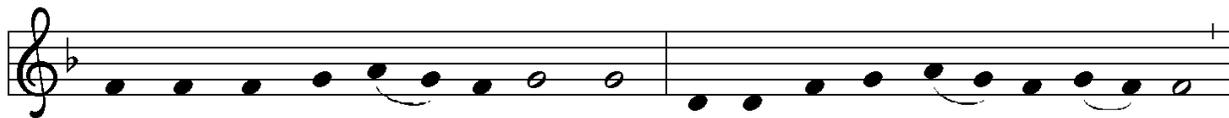
Bestow your grace on all the nations of the earth. Bless our land, and all who live here, and all who are in authority. Let mercy and truth, righteousness and peace, everywhere prevail. Graciously defend us from all calamities by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine. Protect and prosper all people in their appropriate callings, and cause all useful arts to flourish among us. Be the God and Father of the widow and the orphan, the Helper of the sick and needy, and the Comforter of the forsaken and distressed.

And as we are as pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come; doing the work which you have given us to do while it is day; before the night comes when no one can work. And when our last hour shall come, support us by your power, and receive us into your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

OUR FATHER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING SONG

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death AZMON

HYMN 452



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Fuga in d BWV 538/2
Please enjoy the Postlude

Johann Sebastian Bach

Preaching & Presiding: Pastor Strasser

Assisting Minister: Susan Strasser

Lector: Aleah Strasser

Organist: Cantor Pedro d'Aquino

Soloist: Lara Tillotson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, visitors! Saint Luke's is pleased to welcome visitors from near and far. We pray that your worship with us will be a rich experience.

Attendance Last Week: 75 Offering: \$925.00 Needed Weekly: \$2,500.00

This Week at Saint Luke's

TODAY — March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 am Online Service of the Word

TUESDAY — March 24

1:00 pm Soup Kitchen

WEDNESDAY — March 25

OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY — March 26

1:00 pm Soup Kitchen

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, March 29, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Online Service of the Word at 11 a.m.

Next Week's Gospel: John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus



Saint Luke's is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love, regardless of race or culture, economic or life situation, sexual orientation or gender identity, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, spouses and partners are welcome. Your uniqueness enriches our community.

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Arden C. Strasser, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Martha S. Jacobi, Pastoral Associate

The Rev. Paul D. Schmiede, Pastor Emeritus

Pedro d'Aquino, FAGO, ChM, Cantor

Robert Wechtenhiser, Parish Administrator

Council Members

Joey Afanador
Judy Barnett
Megan Cornelius

Brett Hunter
David Lally
Richard Nesbit

Chuck Ragsdale
Richard Sterne
Bob Wechtenhiser

e-mail: info@stlukesnyc.org

website: www.stlukesnyc.org

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@StLukesNewYork